The Belize Times

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— The Truth Shall Make You Free —

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-EDUCATION-

CORAZON HS BSIF OPENING

Preparing & Progressing

■ Pg.2

-INVESTMENT-

GREEN & BLUE INDUSTRIAL POLICIES

Sea Moss is Innovation

■ Pg.2

GLOBAL WATER SUMMIT 2026: WHERE WATER MEETS MONEY

BDF News | BTB Marketing | More Homes | Livestock Training

■ Inside

GRADUATION SEASON BEGINS

Beginning of Endless Possibilities

Centro Escolar Mexico Junior College

■ Pg. 8

MoHW Launch

National Community Health Strategy

■ Pg. 9

Equipping the Workforce

Education Sessions

Labour

■ Pg. 11

DENNISON AGAIN?

For All the Wrong Reasons

■ Pg. 10

2026 HURRICANE SEASON: JUNE 1 - NOVEMBER 30

Take action TODAY: Have multiple ways of receiving forecasts

GoB – BSIF Inauguration

Corazon Creek Technical High School New School Building

The Government of Belize, through the Social Investment Fund and the CDB, has inaugurated a new building for the Corazon Creek Technical High School. The new infrastructure is specifically designed to expand educational opportunities in the south, directly benefiting students traveling from sixteen different communities across the Toledo District.

The project features a two-story concrete structure equipped with eight modern classrooms to enhance student learning, dedicated administrative office spaces, restrooms for students and staff, secure storage areas, and fully integrated access ramps to ensure inclusivity for all students and visitors.

The Ministry of Education, Culture, Science and Technology is proud to have partnered in the construction of a new school building at Corazon Creek Technical High School. This investment marks another step forward in expanding access to quality education and creating greater opportunities for the students and wider indigenous community of Corazon Creek.

Constructed through the efforts of the Belize Social Investment Fund, Caribbean Development Bank and the Government of Belize, the new facility will provide an improved learning environment that supports academic growth, technical training, and student development.

As an Educational Upliftment School, Corazon Creek Technical High School benefits from a comprehensive initiative aimed at reducing barriers to education through support for tuition, transportation, uniforms, learning resources, meals, and improvements to school infrastructure. The addition of this new building further enhances the school's ability to provide a safe, modern, and empowering environment for teaching and learning.

This new building represents the Government's ongoing commitment to provide equitable access to educational resources and modern infrastructure to rural communities nationwide.

Government of BELIZE

Belize Press Office
822.0094 or 822.0092
822.2671
www.pressoffice.gov.bz

Cabinet Brief

Belmopan, May 28, 2026
The Cabinet met on May 26, 2026.

- In preparation for the start of the 2026 hurricane season, Cabinet received a full briefing from senior staff of the ministry with responsibility for Disaster Risk Management and gave its full support for and approval of measures being put in place for this year's hurricane season.
- Cabinet gave its endorsement of a proposed concession agreement between the Department of Transport/Transport Board and the National Bus Company establishing a structured operational and regulatory framework for the modernization and coordinated operation of designated corridors under the existing transportation statutory regime. This will allow for the facilitation of investment by the NBC and will contribute to a reliable, safe and financially sustainable public transport industry.
- Cabinet welcomed an update on the status of Belize's project submissions under the CARICOM Development Fund. These resources, nine million dollars in loan and grant funds, directly target rural poverty alleviation, agricultural modernization, and climate resilient education infrastructure. The projects include school infrastructure development in the Corozal and Cayo districts, honey and livestock development and the establishment of a market building in Bella Vista, Toledo.
- Cabinet expressed serious concern over the removal of dangerous military ordinances by a private citizen from the Baldy Beacon area in the Cayo District. Belizeans are reminded that the Baldy Beacon area is restricted at times to enable military operations to be carried out. Cabinet requested a full investigation to ensure there is no further repeat of the incident.
- Finally, Cabinet advises all Belizeans that as we are about to enter the hurricane season, be vigilant, stay tuned to official reporting agencies in the event of a potential threat, and ensure that your hurricane plan is in place.

Ends

PUP
PEOPLE'S UNITED PARTY

ANNOUNCEMENT

The People's United Party invites applications for those wishing to contest the 2027 Municipal Elections in any of the nine municipalities.

Applications are to be submitted in Duplicate: The Original to the PUP Secretariat and a Copy to the Caucus Chair for the respective municipality.

The window for applications is on Monday 1st of June to Friday 19th June, 2026 at 4:00 p.m.

Applications are available at the PUP Secretariat and from the constituency Executive Committee for the municipality in which you wish to contest.

Green & Blue Industrial Policies

SEA MOSS INDUSTRY RISING

May 27, 2026 - Belize is positioning itself for a new wave of economic growth as the government, international partners, and private sector/stakeholders move to develop the country's emerging green and blue industries. Among the sectors gaining major attention is sea moss production, an industry many believe could transform coastal communities, create jobs, and strengthen Belize's blue economy for years to come.

This week, representatives from the Investment Policy and Compliance Unit, the Office of the Prime Minister, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), and the Belize Trade and Investment Development Service (BELTRAIDE) visited Riverdale Seamoss as consultations continued on Belize's first Industrial Strategy with Green and Blue Industrial Policies.

The visit highlighted growing recognition of the economic potential of seaweed/sea moss cultivation. An industry that is rapidly expanding worldwide due to demand for health products, sustainable food alternatives, and natural wellness supplements.

Additionally, the company stated the discussions showed that the Government of Belize sees sea moss as an opportunity to generate em-

Continued on page 5

The Belize Times
serving Belize since 1957 as the longest continuous newspaper.

Founder: Rt. Hon. George Cadle Price, People's United Party Leader Emeritus

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EDITORIAL

GRADUATION VS COMMENCEMENT

Much like New Year's, Christmas, Independence Day, and Easter, Graduation season brings its own aura, economy and tradition. During this time, parents, guardians, and students celebrate thousands of hours of hard work and dedication devoted to the future. For many, eight years of Primary and four years of secondary school are viewed as their only formal Education, as they prepare to become family breadwinners. Since Belize requires students to be in school until age sixteen, this almost ensures secondary-level education for all. Thus, when the Graduation list is published, a collective sigh of joy, mixed with a touch of sadness and apprehension for the changes ahead, fills the air. At this point, students—now graduands, soon-to-be graduates—face a crossroads: move on to higher-level institutions, enter the workforce, or balance both. The exhilaration of commencement, marked by academic regalia, becomes an enduring memory for all involved. Specifics of graduation day may fade, but the sense of achievement and new beginnings remains. As this chapter closes for thousands, another readily begins.

In the past few years, careful scrutiny has brought to light an interesting fact. At graduation time, we no longer hear the chants and chatter about 'where are the jobs for the graduates?' The anxiety of 'what will my son or daughter do now?' has disappeared. Instead, more students are staying in school and pursuing higher education. This shift can be attributed to higher high school graduation rates, as policy-driven initiatives—such as the Belize Education Upliftment Project—have eliminated tuition and fees for thousands of students. Naturally, this expansion has funnelled more secondary graduates into post-secondary options. At the same time, access to Distance and Flexible Learning has increased as local institutions expand satellite campuses, hybrid course offerings, and online programs, reaching students in rural and remote districts who had previously struggled to relocate. As workforce demand for specialised skills grows in local and global economies, more working professionals and recent high school graduates are pursuing degrees in education, ICT, business, tourism, and health sciences, thereby continuing the evolution set in motion by policy changes.

Today, in Belize, there are approximately 20,000 more persons in the formal workforce than in 2019. This workforce growth becomes more significant when considering the major turning point in 2020, marked by the pandemic and economic changes. That year of the UDP recession and global disease saw many resilient Belizeans lose jobs and livelihoods, only for them to rise alongside the People's United Party and planBelize. This adaptability led to a surge in micro- and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs), which now form the backbone of Belize's economy—accounting for roughly 90% of all businesses and employing about 50% of the labour force. In fact, over 60% of jobs are now created in this sector, particularly empowering women and youth. Among the drivers of job growth, the BPO sector stands out for employing 24 thousand people and injecting over 300 million Belize dollars into the economy through salaries alone. Given these favourable conditions and recruitment efforts, it is unsurprising that graduates are increasingly drawn to the workforce.

Belize's economic and governmental dynamics are increasing the focus on aligning the workforce with demand for specific skills and labour. For example, the shift toward services and 4IR technologies shows that Belize's economy is moving away from traditional agriculture and manufacturing toward tourism and ICT. This demands a workforce skilled in digital systems, cybersecurity, and cloud computing. The Government, by boosting investor confidence and updating legislation, has opened Belize to innovative MSMEs and larger businesses. Despite low unemployment rates near 2%, employers often struggle to find applicants with the critical thinking, soft skills, and tech capabilities they need. As a result, graduates are highly sought after to fill these specific, lucrative roles.

This need for specialised talent also highlights another longstanding challenge: Belize's historic "brain drain" as skilled workers have sought opportunities abroad. To address this, the Government is now making stronger efforts to retain graduates and align their skills with domestic needs. Recent initiatives, such as the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) Employability Programs, aim to create attractive local careers by upgrading job-matching services, expanding vocational training, and preparing young people for in-demand fields such as BPO and ICT. Among these, the new Talent Up Belize Ecosystem is designed to transform how the workforce is prepared for the digital economy. Targeting high-growth sectors such as BPO, tech-enabled roles, digital entrepreneurship, remote work, and innovation-driven fields like artificial intelligence, this initiative is a strategic collaboration between BELTRAIDE, the IDB, Taiwan's ICDF, and Google Cloud. These efforts illustrate a coordinated attempt to both retain talent and fulfil the evolving needs of Belize's economy.

As these changes unfold, students come to realise during the graduation process that Commencement exercises symbolise more than a ceremony—they mark the moment when life shifts from theory to practice. As they embark on this next stage, many may soon feel that school taught them less than expected and that skills are constantly evolving. Qualities such as manners, timeliness, focus, innovation, and ethics quickly prove to be essential. Life often overlooks grades, instead elevating broader aptitudes and attitudes. Meanwhile, the significance of parents' and government's roles transforms as young citizens grow and find their place. Both parents and the government provide stability, maintaining order as Belize continues to progress and develop through the success of its graduates.

en Español

GRADUACIÓN FRENTE A UN NUEVO CAPITULO

Al igual que el Año Nuevo, la Navidad, el Día de la Independencia y la Semana Santa, la temporada de graduaciones tiene su propio ambiente, su economía y sus tradiciones. Durante este periodo, padres, tutores y alumnos celebran las miles de horas de esfuerzo y dedicación invertidas en su futuro. Para muchos, los ocho años de primaria y los cuatro de secundaria se consideran su única educación formal, ya que se preparan para convertirse en el sustento de sus familias. Dado que Belice exige que los estudiantes permanezcan en la escuela hasta los dieciséis años, esto garantiza prácticamente la educación secundaria para todos. Así, cuando se publica la lista de graduados, un suspiro colectivo de alegría, mezclado con un toque de tristeza y aprensión por los cambios que se avecinan, llena el ambiente. En este momento, los estudiantes —ahora graduandos, futuros graduados— se enfrentan a una encrucijada: pasar a instituciones de nivel superior, incorporarse al mercado laboral o compaginar ambas cosas. La euforia de la ceremonia de graduación, marcada por las togas académicas, se convierte en un recuerdo imborrable para todos los involucrados. Los detalles del día de la graduación pueden desvanecerse, pero la sensación de logro y de nuevos comienzos permanece. A medida que este capítulo se cierra para miles de personas, otro comienza de inmediato.

En los últimos años, un análisis minucioso ha sacado a la luz un hecho interesante. En la época de la graduación, ya no se oyen los cánticos y las conversaciones sobre «¿dónde están los trabajos para los graduados?». La ansiedad de «¿qué hará ahora mi hijo o mi hija?» ha desaparecido. En su lugar, cada vez más estudiantes permanecen en la escuela y cursan estudios superiores. Este cambio puede atribuirse a las mayores tasas de graduación de secundaria, ya que iniciativas impulsadas por políticas —como el Proyecto de Mejora de la Educación de Belice— han eliminado las matrículas y tasas para miles de estudiantes. Naturalmente, esta expansión ha canalizado a más graduados de secundaria hacia opciones de educación superior. Al mismo tiempo, el acceso al aprendizaje a distancia y flexible ha aumentado a medida que las instituciones locales amplían sus campus satélites, la oferta de cursos híbridos y los programas en línea, llegando a estudiantes de distritos rurales y remotos que antes tenían dificultades para trasladarse. A medida que crece la demanda de mano de obra con habilidades especializadas en las economías locales y globales, más profesionales en activo y recién graduados de secundaria cursan estudios superiores en educación, TIC, negocios, turismo y ciencias de la salud, continuando así la evolución puesta en marcha por los cambios políticos.

Hoy en día, en Belice, hay aproximadamente 20 000 personas más en la población activa formal que en 2019. Este crecimiento de la población activa cobra mayor relevancia si se tiene en cuenta el importante punto de inflexión de 2020, marcado por la pandemia y los cambios económicos. Ese año de recesión del UDP y de pandemia mundial vio cómo muchos beliceños resilientes perdían sus empleos y medios de vida, para luego resurgir junto al Partido Popular Unido y planBelize. Esta capacidad de adaptación dio lugar a un auge de las microempresas y las pequeñas y medianas empresas (MIPYMES), que ahora constituyen la columna vertebral de la economía de Belice, ya que representan aproximadamente el 90 % de todas las empresas y emplean a alrededor del 50 % de la población activa. De hecho, más del 60 % de los puestos de trabajo se crean ahora en este sector, lo que empodera especialmente a las mujeres y a los jóvenes. Entre los motores del crecimiento del empleo, destaca el sector de la externalización de procesos de negocio (BPO), que da empleo a 24 000 personas e inyecta más de 300 millones de dólares beliceños en la economía solo a través de los salarios. Dadas estas condiciones favorables y los esfuerzos de contratación, no es de extrañar que los titulados se sientan cada vez más atraídos por el mercado laboral.

La dinámica económica y gubernamental de Belice está aumentando el énfasis en alinear la mano de obra con la demanda de competencias y mano de obra específicas. Por ejemplo, el giro hacia los servicios y las tecnologías de la 4IR muestra que la economía de Belice se está alejando de la agricultura y la industria manufacturera tradicionales para orientarse hacia el turismo y las TIC. Esto exige una fuerza laboral cualificada en sistemas digitales, ciberseguridad y computación en la nube. El Gobierno, al impulsar la confianza de los inversores y actualizar la legislación, ha abierto Belice a las micro, pequeñas y medianas empresas (MIPYMES) innovadoras y a las grandes empresas. A pesar de las bajas tasas de desempleo, cercanas al 2 %, los empleadores suelen tener dificultades para encontrar candidatos con el pensamiento crítico, las habilidades sociales y las capacidades tecnológicas que necesitan. Como resultado, los titulados son muy solicitados para cubrir estos puestos específicos y lucrativos.

Esta necesidad de talento especializado pone de relieve otro reto de larga data: la histórica «fuga de cerebros» de Belice, ya que los trabajadores cualificados han buscado oportunidades en el extranjero. Para hacer frente a esta situación, el Gobierno está intensificando sus esfuerzos por retener a los titulados universitarios y adaptar sus competencias a las necesidades nacionales. Iniciativas recientes, como los Programas de Empleabilidad del Banco Interamericano de Desarrollo (BID), tienen como objetivo crear carreras profesionales atractivas a nivel local mediante la mejora de los servicios de colocación laboral, la ampliación de la formación profesional y la preparación de los jóvenes para sectores con gran demanda, como el BPO y las TIC. Entre ellas, el nuevo Ecosistema Talent Up Belize está diseñado para transformar la forma en que se prepara a la fuerza laboral para la economía digital. Dirigida a sectores de alto crecimiento como el BPO, los puestos de trabajo basados en la tecnología, el emprendimiento digital, el trabajo a distancia y campos impulsados por la innovación como la inteligencia artificial, esta iniciativa es una colaboración estratégica entre BELTRAIDE, el BID, el ICDF de Taiwán y Google Cloud. Estos esfuerzos ilustran un intento coordinado tanto de retener el talento como de satisfacer las necesidades cambiantes de la economía de Belice.

A medida que se producen estos cambios, los estudiantes se dan cuenta durante el proceso de graduación de que las ceremonias de graduación simbolizan algo más que una simple ceremonia: marcan el momento en que la vida pasa de la teoría a la práctica. Al embarcarse en esta nueva etapa, muchos pueden sentir pronto que la escuela les ha enseñado menos de lo esperado y que las habilidades están en constante evolución. Cualidades como los modales, la puntualidad, la concentración, la innovación y la ética pronto demuestran ser esenciales. La vida a menudo pasa por alto las calificaciones y, en cambio, valora aptitudes y actitudes más amplias. Mientras tanto, la importancia de los roles de los padres y del gobierno se transforma a medida que los jóvenes ciudadanos crecen y encuentran su lugar. Tanto los padres como el gobierno proporcionan estabilidad, manteniendo el orden mientras Belice continúa progresando y desarrollándose gracias al éxito de sus graduados.

BELIZE CITY COUNCIL
Always 'bout The People

WORKS CONTINUE ENDLESSLY

Mayor Wagner and Team

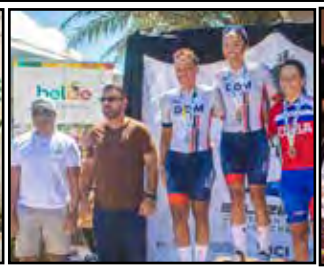
'Always 'bout the People'…is this PUP team's version of 'Serve the People'. Mayor Wagner has led three teams of councilors since the historic Belizean turnaround to the progressive PUP in 2018. The Belizeans of Belize City have been happy to offer two evaluation-type re-election to the PUP Mayor and teams in 2021 and 2024. The achievements have been tremendous and fixing the ills of the previous (2015-2018) UDP administration at the onset was a political headache with the spiteful Barrow central government ready to impede any progress. There is nothing that can show more success than leaving on your own terms, as his worship Mayor Bernard Wagner has announced essentially that there will be a new Mayor in 2027. Kudos to a job excellently done.

The 2024–2027 team (PUP) serving the citizens of our Belize City along with Mayor Wagner are Deputy Mayor Eluide Miller; Councillors: Allan Pollard(former Standard Bearer for Queen Square), Kaya Cattouse(former Standard Bearer for Albert), Javier Castellanos, Evan Thompson, Stephanne Hamilton, Edmund Kwan, Malcolm Nunez(current BYM President), Dorian Usher, and Sherwin Garcia. Ahead are a few of the BCC's highlights during this last term.

Infrastructure

Innovative Governance

Collaboration: Area Rep's & GoB



Green & Blue Industrial Policies

SEA MOSS INDUSTRY RISING

Continued from page 2

ployment, support sustainable livelihoods, reduce pressure on traditional fishing industries, and open new economic possibilities for our coastal communities.

The industrial strategy now being developed by the Government of Belize and UNIDO is focused on helping the country diversify beyond tourism and traditional agriculture. Preliminary findings presented during a recent workshop in Belize City identified six key industries with strong potential for long-term growth and sustainability.

On the green economy side, Belize is exploring greater investment in cacao and chocolate production, coconut products, and bio-based industries such as agro-processing,

compostable materials, and bioenergy. Within the blue economy, attention is being placed on seaweed cultivation, fisheries and aquaculture, and boatbuilding.

The objective is not simply to export raw materials, but to move Belize higher up the value chain by developing finished products locally. This approach could help keep more revenue inside the country while creating specialized jobs, encouraging innovation, and strengthening economic resilience.

Sea moss, in particular, has become one of the most talked-about industries globally. International demand has surged in recent years as consumers increasingly seek nutrient-rich and plant-based health products. According to market research highlighted in a 2025 National Geographic article, the global sea moss market was valued at more than two billion U.S. dollars in 2024 and is projected to continue growing steadily through the end of the decade. *"The Global Sea Moss Market was valued at USD 2.18 Billion in 2024 and is projected to reach a market size of USD 2.60 Billion by the end of 2030. Over the forecast period of 2025-2030, the market is projected to grow at a CAGR of 3%."* - Virtue Market Research

Industry analysts attribute the expansion to rising interest in natural wellness products, immune-boosting foods, and sustainable alternatives within the global health market. Sea moss is now commonly sold as gels, powders, gummies, supplements, and food additives across North America, Europe, and other major markets.

For Belize, the opportunity extends beyond exports. Supporters of the industry believe local sea moss farming could help create jobs in coastal villages, encourage entrepreneurship, and provide younger Belizeans with alternative income streams tied to marine resources. It may also reduce dependence on overfishing by providing another source of livelihood for fishermen and their families.

"Those involved in the industrial strategy say sustainability remains a central focus. By promoting environmentally responsible industries tied to Belize's natural resources, the country hopes to balance economic expansion with conservation and climate resilience," noted a government official.

The workshop held in Belize City brought together more than 50 participants, including representatives from government ministries, the University of Belize, the Belize Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Economic Development Council, and stakeholders connected to the industries.

This strategy is a roadmap toward a more innovative and resilient Belizean economy. The initiative also aligns with broader international sustainable development goals by encouraging resource efficiency and environmentally responsible industrialization.

As global markets continue shifting toward sustainable products and green industries, Belize appears ready to capitalize on opportunities that build on the country's natural strengths. From sea moss cultivation to agro-processing and marine industries, the country is now exploring sectors that could create jobs, attract investment, and generate long-term economic growth while protecting the environment.

For many involved in the discussions, the rise of sea moss represents more than a trend. It signals the beginning of what could become an entirely new industry for Belize.

Courtesy Visit

Ambassador of Japan with Minister of Human Development, Famly Support and Gender Affairs

The Ministry of Human Development, Family Support and Gender Affairs had the pleasure of welcoming Ryosuke Yamakura, Ambassador of Japan, for a courtesy visit with Hon. Thea Garcia Ramirez.

During the meeting, discussions centered on the important work of the Ministry and its central role within Belize's social sector, including the wide range of services and support provided to some of our most vulnerable populations.

Both parties also explored areas of collaboration, with the Embassy of Japan expressing interest in how it may further support and complement ongoing efforts during the Ambassador's tenure in Belize. The conversation highlighted shared values around social development, human dignity, and strengthening community well-being.

The Ministry welcomes continued partnership and engagement with international partners as we work together to advance sustainable and inclusive development for all Belizeans.

IN THE HIGH COURT OF BELIZE, A.D. 2002

CLAIM No. 263 of 2002

BETWEEN	**(FELICIA NOLBERTO**	**CLAIMANT**
	(	
	(AND	
	(	
	(LAWRENCE COLON	**DEFENDANT/APPLICANT**
	(	
	(CYNTHIA KAY HILL	**RESPONDENT**
	(Executrix for Last Will	
	(and Testament of Felicia	
	(Nolberto Ramos)	

NOTICE

To: **CYNTHIA KAY HILL** of
No. 29 Bishop Martin Street
San Francisco Area, Orange Walk Town
Orange Walk District, Belize

TAKE NOTICE THAT:

1. The Applicant, **LAWRENCE COLON,** has filed an Amended Combined Notice of Application dated the 4th day of December, 2025 in the High Court of Belize against you as Executrix for the Estate of Felicia Nolberto Ramos for Orders for directions for the sale of Property situate at No. 29 Bishop Martin Street, San Francisco Area, Orange Walk Town, Orange Walk District, Belize, more particularly described as Parcel No. 1564, Block No. 4 in the Orange Walk Town Registration Section by way of public auction.
2. On the 20th April, 2026 the Court ordered that the Amended Combined Notice of Application together with the supporting affidavits be served on you, the Respondent, by two consecutive publications of this notice. Copies of the Amended Combined Notice of Application may be obtained from the General Registry situate at No. 1 Treasury Lane, Belize City, Belize, telephone number (501) 227 7377 or from the Applicant's Attorneys-at-Law of No. 1583 Life Avenue – U/F, University Heights Area, Belize City, Telephone: (501) 223 4537, email: info@walindo.law; natasha@walindo.law.
3. The matter is set for Hearing before the Court on the 23rd June, 2026 at 9:30 a.m. to 9:45 a.m. before the Honourable Justice Derick F. Sylvester.

Dated the 13th day of May, 2026

WA Lindo LLP
Attorneys-at-Law for the Applicant
Per: *Natasha Espat*

NOTICE

GOVERNMENT OF BELIZE TREASURY BILLS
ISSUE NUMBER 8/2026

Tenders are invited for an issue of Government of Belize Treasury Bills. The amount of the issue will be $90,000,000.00.

The Bills will be issued in electronic form only evidenced by an electronic book entry in the Central Securities Depository (CSD) of the Central Bank of Belize in multiples of $200 and will be repayable at par 91 days after issue. They will be issued on Thursday, 11 June 2026 and will be redeemed on Thursday 10 September 2026.

Each tender must be for $200 or a multiple of $200. Bid yields must be submitted to five decimal places.

Members of the public who wish to participate in the auction must submit their bid to the Central Bank of Belize electronically to bids@centralbank.org.bz or at the designated drop off box no later than 12:00 noon on Friday, 5 June 2026.

The auction in the CSD will be opened from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm on Thursday 11 June 2026.

Successful bidders should arrange to settle via the Automated Payment & Securities Settlement System of Belize (APSSS).

Bank: Central Bank of Belize
Account: GLICORP0402627

The Government of Belize reserves the right to accept or reject any and/or all tenders in whole or in part.

CENTRAL BANK OF BELIZE

Notices are placed on Central Bank of Belize Website (www.centralbank.org.bz)

13 May 2026

Centaur Communications Corp Ltd

APPLICATION FOR A TELECOMMUNICATIONS NOTICE

The **Centaur Communications Corporation Limited** of **61 Queen Victoria, Orange Walk Town** hereby informs the public that pursuant to the Telecommunications (Licensing Classification, Authorisation, and Fee Structure) Regulations, 2020, as amended from time to time, has applied to the **Public Utilities Commission** (PUC) for the **RENEWAL** of **a Class** Licence to provide **Internet service** at the **Belize, Orange Walk and Corozal Districts**.

Interested parties are invited to submit comments on this application within two (2) weeks of this publication. Comments can be sent to telecom@puc.bz

Viewing of Application for the Telecommunications Licence:
Members of the public and all other interested parties may view the application along with associated information at the offices of the Public Utilities Commission or at the offices of **Centaur Communications Corporation Limited** at **61 Queen Victoria Avenue, Orange Walk Town.**

BWS

Request for Bids (RFB)

Water Supply & Modernization Program

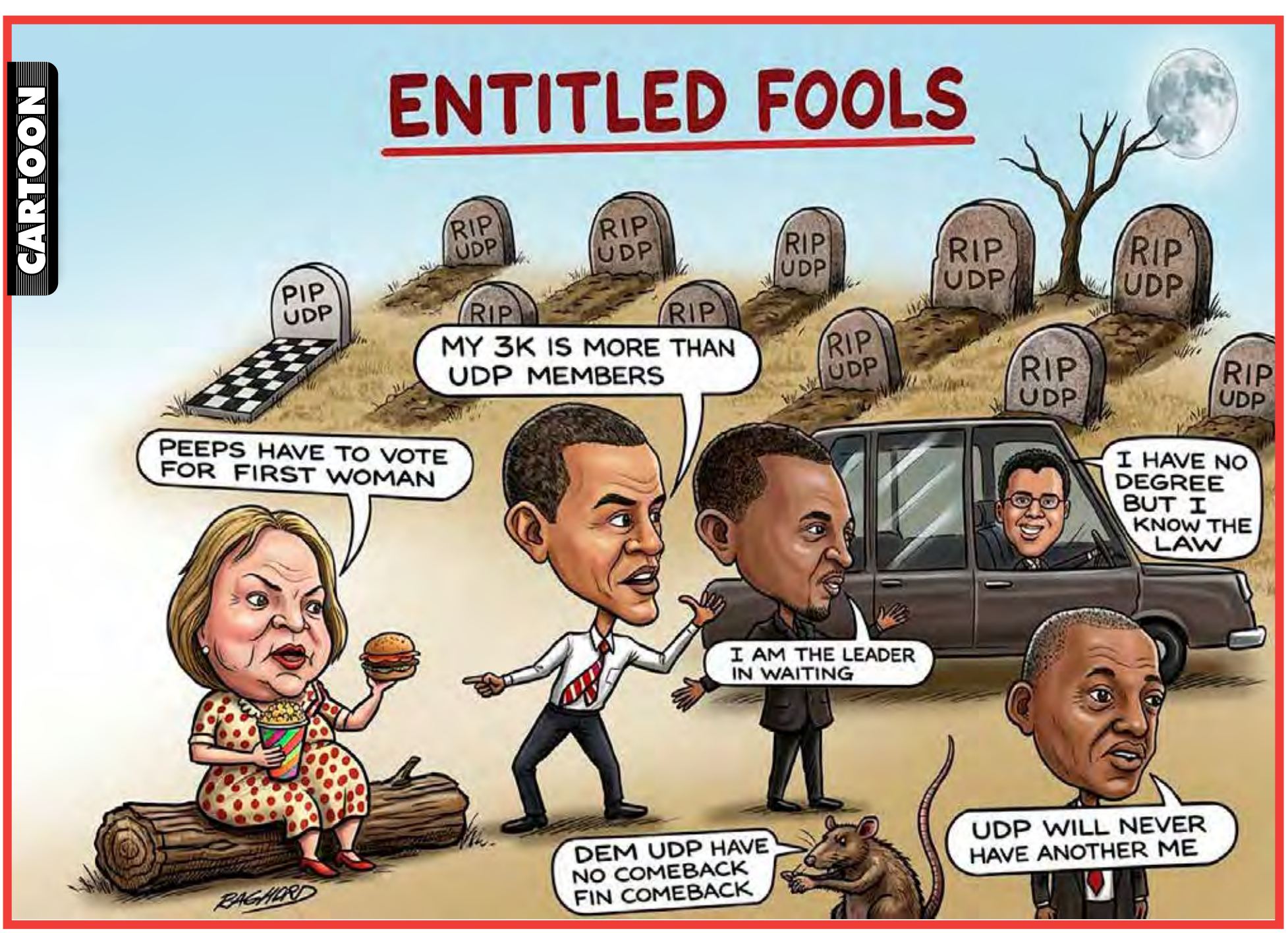
BL-L1043

SUPPLY & COMISSION OF SMART METERS PHASE 2 (SAN PEDRO)

1. This RFB follows the General Procurement Notice for this Project publicized as of *24th April 2026.*
2. Belize Water Services Limited has received financing from the Inter-American Development Bank toward the cost of Water Supply & Modernization Program and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this loan to payments under the Contract for *Supply & Commission of Smart Meters Phase 2 (San Pedro).*
3. The *Belize Water Services Limited* now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for *Supply & Commission of Smart Meters Phase 2 (San Pedro).*
4. The RFB will be conducted through the International Competitive Bidding (ICB) procedures specified in the Inter-American Development Bank's *Policies for the Procurement of Goods and Works financed by the Inter-American Development Bank GN-2349-15* and is open to all bidders from Eligible Source Countries as defined in the bidding document.
5. Interested eligible bidders may obtain an e-copy of bidding document from *Belize Water Services Limited, Mr. Leonardo Folgarait, Procurement Specialist at rce@bwsl.com.bz*
6. Bids may be delivered to the address below *on or before 2:00 p.m. on 5th June 2026.* Alternatively, bidders may submit their bids electronically via email to the address specified, in accordance with the procedures outlined in the Bidding Data Sheet, *on or before 2:00 p.m. on 5th June 2026.* Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened physically at *2:15 p.m. 5th June 2026* in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend in person or on-line.
7. All bids *"shall"* be accompanied by a *"Bid Security"* of *3% of bid price in US Dollars or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency.*
8. The address referred to above is:
   Mr. Leonardo Folgarait,
   Procurement Specialist,
   Belize Water Services Limited,
   7 Central American Boulevard,
   Belize City, Belize C.A.

BWS - Delivering Water and More...

CARTOON


ENTITLED FOOLS
RIP UDP
PIP UDP
MY 3K IS MORE THAN UDP MEMBERS
PEEPS HAVE TO VOTE FOR FIRST WOMAN
I HAVE NO DEGREE BUT I KNOW THE LAW
I AM THE LEADER IN WAITING
DEM UDP HAVE NO COMEBACK FIN COMEBACK
UDP WILL NEVER HAVE ANOTHER ME
BAGHORD

Eulogy

DAISY OLGA MARIN

Delivered by her granddaughter Misty Marin

Today we lay to rest the beloved matriarch of the Marin Sawers family, Daisy Olga Marin née Sawers. She was known affectionately to all as "Mama Oko" or simply "Oko", a nickname given to her by her eldest granddaughter, Ingrid Vega. Mama Oko was a pillar of the community — a loving mother, wife, grandmother, great-grandmother, aunt, sister, friend, teacher, politician, philanthropist, businesswoman, dancer, and a formidable Scrabble player.

Born in Belize City on August 9, 1931, Mama Oko spent her childhood between Corozal, Belize City, Chetumal, then known as Payo Obispo, and the San Juan Saltillo estate across the New River, where her father worked as an accountant. She was raised during a time when large families in Corozal were the backbone of the town's social and economic life. Families depended on unity, hard work, faith, and community spirit — values that would shape Mama Oko throughout her life. The Sawers family was well known in Corozal, and from an early age she learned the importance of family bonds, service to others, and perseverance.

She attended St. Francis Xavier Roman Catholic School and later returned there at the remarkable age of 13 as a teacher's assistant before becoming a primary school teacher. Her lifelong devotion to education and service began there.

Deeply rooted in the Roman Catholic faith, Mama Oko was an active and devoted member of the Church throughout her life. She participated enthusiastically in Easter celebrations and parades and was always willing to dedicate her time and energy to church and community activities. Her faith guided her actions, her generosity, and her commitment to helping others.

While in school, she quickly became friends with a young man by the name of Juan Vildo Marin. That friendship blossomed into a lifelong love story that produced ten children and a marriage filled with dedication, sacrifice, and partnership.

Together, while raising their large family, they established several successful businesses. Among them was "Refaccionaria Marin," founded in 1964 and recognized as one of the first spare parts stores in Corozal. Their entrepreneurial ventures also included the sale of liquors, butane, vehicles, supermarket operations, rental properties, and serving as representatives for Pepsi products in Belize.

Mama Oko was truly ahead of her time as a businesswoman. In an era when few women ventured into commerce, she traveled regularly from Corozal to Belize City — often by truck on rough roads — to purchase goods and supplies for the family businesses. Through determination, courage, and hard work, she helped build enterprises that supported not only her family, but also the wider community. Yet despite her many responsibilities, Mama Oko always found time to serve others.

In 1967, recognizing the need for early childhood education in Corozal, she opened her doors to establish what became Corozal's first kindergarten. She also served as President of the Mary Hill Parent Teachers Association, where under her leadership numerous fundraising projects helped advance and improve the school.

Her dedication to community service eventually led her into politics. Alongside her husband, she avidly supported the People's United Party and followed the Rt. Hon. George Cadle Price during Belize's peaceful constructive revolution.

In 1981, she made history by becoming the Mayoress of Corozal Town, remembered as the first female Mayor in Belize after Independence. Though she served only one year before stepping down due to her husband's illness, she continued to serve as a Councilor and remained actively involved in civic life.

Among her accomplishments as Mayoress were the establishment of a Carnival Committee, the cleanup and removal of abandoned vehicles, and initiatives that contributed to Corozal becoming known for its cleanliness, civic pride, and beauty. The Carnival Committee also played a significant role in organizing Carnival celebrations before Lent and contributed to the creation of what is today known as the Roundhouse at Miami Beach.

Mama Oko served her community in many additional capacities. She was appointed Justice of the Peace and Commissioner of the Supreme Court in 1986. She also became President of the Hospital Auxiliary, serving faithfully for 24 years. Under her leadership, the Auxiliary contributed significantly to the hospital, including fundraising for a laboratory, generator, curtains, bedding, and many other necessities. Their annual Mother's Day fundraising programs became highly successful and greatly benefited the hospital and community.

In her later years, she devoted much of her time to advocating for the elderly. As part of a fundraising initiative, she took part in a beauty pageant designed for women aged 60 and above; the event sought to honor the elegance, poise, and confidence of senior citizens. Mama Oko not only participated but emerged victorious. That unforgettable moment remains a powerful reminder of her beauty, grace, confidence, talent, and the fact that her accomplishments knew no age limit.

Throughout her lifetime of service, Mama Oko received numerous medals and recognitions for her contributions to community development, civic leadership, and public service. She was recognized for her commitment to the community through the Meritorious service award in 2012, the service to the people award in 2020 and in 2019 was recognized by the Special Envoy for women. Yet despite these honors, she remained humble, approachable, and always focused on helping others rather than seeking recognition.

And while she worked tirelessly, Mama Oko also embraced life with joy. She ensured her children enjoyed yearly summer trips to San Pedro, creating memories that would last generations. When many of her children later moved abroad, she traveled often to spend precious time with her grandchildren and extended family.

Anyone who knew Mama Oko remembers her smile, her laughter, and especially her dancing. Her love for dance led her to join the Senior Steppers, where she performed at many functions.

Her vivacious spirit leaves an imprint on all our hearts, especially within her family. She will forever be remembered for her competitive spirit and her love of games. At scrabble, she remains the family's undefeated champion having bested us at the tabletop, card and even online versions of scrabble which she played almost daily with her son Vildo, and daughter, Zeni.

Her famous Christmas black cakes became a treasured family tradition. And December 26th will forever be remembered not simply as Boxing Day, but as "Mama Oko's Day," the annual reunion she created for her beloved family. She enjoyed having all her family together on Boxing Day but also on Mother's day and her birthday. Birthdays were always a special occasion for Mama Oko who remembered the birthdays of all her children, grand children and great grandchildren. One of the many beautiful ways she showed her love was through the simple but meaningful tradition of singing "Happy Birthday" to each of her family on their birthday. If she could not be there in person, she would call and sing over the phone. It was one of her unique ways of making each person feel remembered and cherished. While I am certain those heartfelt birthday songs are memories, we will hold close to our hearts, I am equally certain they shall be sorely missed.

Another way in which she showed her love was that she was always there to welcome her grandchildren into the world. Regardless of whether they were born in the U.S., Mexico or in Belize, she was there. One of her greatest acts of love was being the person to give each of them their first bath.

She is survived by her children: Zenaida Mendez, Inair Codd, Juan Vildo Marin Jr., Elisa Reyes, Maria Griselda Escudero, Israel Marin, Miguel Marin, Abigail Marin, and Danny Marin.

She is also survived by her 20 grandchildren, 17 great grandchildren and 3 siblings.

She is predeceased by her beloved husband, Juan Vildo Marin Sr., and her son, Jose Luis Marin.

Even in her final days, Mama Oko would often say that she wished she still had the energy to continue serving her community.

That was who she was.

A woman of faith.

A woman of strength.

A woman of service.

A woman of family.

A woman whose legacy will continue to live on in the lives she touched and in the community she helped build.

May she rest in peace and rise in glory.

Commencement Exercises

Centro Escolar Mexico Junior College

ADDRESS TO CLASS OF 2026

CEO Narda Garcia,

Office of Prime Minister, Investment, & Civil Aviation

May 23

Theme: The End of One Chapter; The Beginning of Endless Possibilities

Good evening, distinguished guests, dean, faculty and staff, proud parents, families, and most importantly—the graduating class of Centro Escolar Mexico Junior College 2026. It is both an honour and a deeply personal privilege to stand before you today. When we first dreamed of establishing a Junior College here at Escuela Secundaria Mexico, people asked, "Why?" Why push for one more institution? It was because we saw what you, the Class of 2026, have now proven: that the young people of these surrounding communities and this nation are ready for more. Ready for higher learning. Ready for endless possibilities.

And so today, we celebrate more than your academic achievements. We celebrate resilience, courage, and the determination that brought each of you to this milestone — the closing of one chapter and the opening of a future filled with endless possibilities.

Graduates, take a moment to reflect: this institution itself was once just an idea — a vision — a hope. As Chair of the Board during its establishment, I had the privilege of advocating, lobbying, and collaborating with resolute individuals who believed that Corozal Southwest and the wider Corozal and Orange Walk communities deserved greater access to higher education. We believed in opportunity. We believed in potential. And most importantly — we believed in you, even before many of you walked through these doors. Today, as I look at each of you crossing this stage, I feel a profound sense of fulfilment. Because this Junior College was not built for buildings or programs — it was built for people like you.

As your theme infers…. today is the end of one chapter of your lives. Today marks the close of a specific, demanding chapter. This chapter you are closing was one of formation. You were challenged academically. You grew socially. Your patience was tested especially when you had those famous group projects. You learned discipline — and perhaps sometimes the hard way. You survived long nights. You had many moments of doubt. Sacrifices were made by both you and your families. But through it all, you persisted. And that is the first lesson I want you to carry forward: Success is not defined by how easy your journey was, but by your ability to keep going when it was not.

Let me say something personal: when I lobbied for this Junior College to be instituted, I did not lobby for a building or a certificate. I lobbied for you. For the student who needed to stay close to home but still dream big; for the first-generation graduate; for the young Belizean who simply needed a door to open. Tonight, that door is wide open.

But as your theme reminds us, an ending is really a beginning. Always bear in mind that Possibility is a dangerous but beautiful word. It means not one path, but a thousand. Now comes the exciting part — the unknown. Some of you will move on to universities. Some will step into the workforce. Some will pursue entrepreneurship. And some may still be discovering their path — and that is perfectly okay. Because we come back to the word possibilities again…. And possibilities are not limited — they are created. And Belize needs you.

Through the work I do in the Office of the Prime Minister and the Ministry of Investment and Civil Aviation, I can tell you with certainty: the future of our country depends on the talent, innovation, and integrity of young people like you. You are entering a world full of opportunity — but also responsibility. For our country to develop and to improve the standard of living and livelihoods of our Belizeans: We need leaders. We need thinkers. We need builders. We need dreamers who are bold enough to turn vision into reality.

So here is my charge to you tonight: Stay inquisitive. The world is changing faster than any curriculum can keep up. Your degree is not the finish line; it is your permission slip to keep learning. Your education does not end today — it evolves. Stay informed. Adapt to change. Be bold in your ambitions. Do not limit yourself to what seems possible today. The world you inherit is one you will shape. Give back. Wherever life takes you, remember your roots. Lift others as you climb. Your success should create opportunities for those who come after you. Do Not Be Afraid to Begin Again. You may change your mind. You may pursue something and realize it is not for you. That is not failure. That is discovery. Your journey is not a straight line—and it was never meant to be. Your Environment May Influence You, But It Does Not Define You…remember that always.

You come from Belize—some country rich in culture, talent, and potential. Never underestimate the power of where you come from. At the same time, remember this: your future is not limited by your circumstances. It is shaped by your vision, your effort, and your willingness to take action. In a fast-paced and dynamic world, as our ecosystem is today, your character will always set you apart. Dream beyond borders. Build Belize. We need your brains, your energy, and your integrity in our public service, our private sector, our classrooms, and our communities. Every sector needs graduates like you.

Remember this place. Centro Escolar Mexico Junior College existed because people believed in possibility before it was proven. One day, someone will ask you to fight for something hard—a new program, a new school, a new idea. Say "yes!" Pay it forward.

A Personal Note

This institution represents something very close to my heart. Seeing it grow, seeing students thrive, and now witnessing graduates like you stepping into your future — it reinforces why we fought to make this Junior College a reality. You are the proof positive that investment in education transforms communities! And while you hear about how your attitude towards the world, is what will take you through the hoops. There is one more discussion we must have today. How do you navigate this era of technology, the Artificial Intelligence (AI) era, so that you are not disadvantaged? On the contrary, I believe that you will face unique opportunities on this journey.

Think of the education you have just completed as your "training data." Like a powerful AI model, you have spent the last few years processing vast amounts of information—essays, equations, historical events, and scientific principles. You have learned to recognize patterns, draw conclusions, and predict outcomes. But here is the key difference between you and a machine: you possess consciousness, curiosity, and the ability to question your own programming. As you

Continued on page 11

Ministry of Human Development, Family Support, and Gender Affairs

WHAT WE DO WEDNESDAY

NEW BEGINNINGS YOUTH DEVELOPMENT CENTER

A Pathway to Change, Growth & Resilience
The New Beginnings Youth Development Center provides a safe, structured, and supportive residential environment for vulnerable and at-risk youths between the ages of 12–17 years across Belize.
The Center supports children and young persons who may be:

Without stable family support
Exposed to difficult social environments
In conflict with the law
Beyond parental control
In need of protective care due to neglect or abuse

Including immigrant children and youths with limited family ties.

SUPPORTING YOUTH THROUGH:
✔ Residential Care & Daily Supervision
✔ Counseling & Psychosocial Support
✔ Academic Development Support
✔ Case Management Services
✔ Independent Living Skills Training
✔ Life Skills Development
✔ Recreational & Structured Activities
✔ Skill Building & Personal Development Programmes

BUILDING STRONGER FUTURES
Within a caring and structured environment, residents are supported in developing:
Confidence
Discipline
Resilience
Responsibility
Positive decision-making skills

OUR COMMITMENT
Through care, structure, guidance, and positive engagement, the New Beginnings Youth Development Center continues to help vulnerable youths move toward stability, growth, healing, and brighter futures.

Facebook & Instagram:
Ministry of Human Development, Family Support and Gender Affairs
Serving People. Strengthening Families. Building Communities.

Community Health Strategy Launched

May 28, 2026 - Belize has officially launched its first-ever National Community Health Strategy 2026–2030, marking what is described as a major step towards strengthening healthcare access and improving services for vulnerable communities across the country.

The strategy was officially unveiled today, May 28, during a ceremony held at the Grand Resort and Residences. The initiative places Community Health Workers (CHWs) at the center of Belize's healthcare system, recognizing them as an essential link between medical services and the communities they serve.

Speaking at the launch, Acting UNICEF Representative Sajid Ali stressed that the success of the strategy will depend heavily on implementation and long-term support.

"The Strategy alone does not save lives; the implementation of it does. Access will depend on sustained political commitment, adequate financing, strong coordination, and conscious monitoring and learning. Together we can ensure that every child, every adolescent, and every family has access to quality health services right where they are."

This new framework supports its wider push toward Universal Health Coverage by strengthening community-based healthcare systems and improving equitable access to services nationwide.

Minister of Health and Wellness Kevin Bernard delivered the keynote address, *"Today's launch represents more than the introduction of another policy document. It represents the national commitment, a commitment to strengthening Primary Health Care, improving access to services, and ensuring that no Belizean is left behind because of where they live or their circumstances,"* emphasizing that the strategy represents more than a government policy. He added that healthcare begins within communities themselves, *"True health wellness begins within our homes, our villages, and our communities."*

This new strategy aligns with the Belize Health Sector Strategic Plan 2025–2034 and focuses on creating a more integrated and people-centered health system. The document was developed through consultations with Community Health Workers, healthcare professionals, civil society groups, development partners, government agencies, and community leaders throughout Belize.

According to the Ministry of Health and Wellness, the strategy is guided by seven major goals aimed at improving community healthcare delivery over the next five years.

These include strengthening community health structures, expanding CHW training and retention, enhancing preventive and integrated healthcare services, increasing community participation, and improving data collection and digital health systems.

The plan also prioritizes sustainable financing, policy coordination, climate resilience, emergency preparedness, and greater inclusion for indigenous peoples and marginalized populations.

According to the Ministry, the strategy is designed to address the evolving healthcare needs of Belizeans while improving outreach to hard-to-reach and vulnerable communities. Community Health Workers are expected to play a central role in health promotion, disease prevention, surveillance, and connecting families to essential medical services.

Scan to download

The Ministry noted that the initiative is rooted in a vision of empowered communities actively working to achieve equitable healthcare and improved well-being. It also promotes collaboration among households, healthcare professionals, community leaders, and national partners.

The Government of Belize and the Ministry of Health & Wellness maintain that community health remains one of the strongest pillars of a resilient health system, especially as Belize continues to confront challenges linked to public health emergencies, climate-related risks, and healthcare accessibility in rural areas.

With the official launch now complete, attention will shift toward implementation, funding, and coordination to ensure the strategy delivers measurable improvements in healthcare outcomes across Belize over the next several years. - EF

DENNISON AGAIN?

For All the Wrong Reasons

Glenfield Dennison is in the news again, and for all the wrong reasons.

This Dennison fellow, who was somehow designated Senator for Labour, keeps dragging the good office he is supposed to represent into disrepute, dishonor and disgrace.

The latest publicity he's been receiving is for an incident in which he demonstratively disrespected dedicated law enforcement officers he ran into in a zone that is under a State of Emergency. Dennison, a Senator, Crown Council and Trade Union Leader who should be on the side of Law and Order, assisting the relevant authorities to ensure safety, provide security and promote civility, is captured on tape berating and belittling law enforcement officers.

What's worse is that it turns out the recording was captured by Dennison himself in order to show up and embarrass the dedicated officers, and to encourage citizens at large to defy and disrespect them in the execution of their essential duties.

When asked by a news reporter whether he was behaving as if, by virtue of the high offices he holds, he is entitled to special, preferential treatment by law enforcement officers, Dennison admitted, in his own words, "Yes, yes, I'm not proud of it,…Yes, I was rude to the police officers. Yes. I'm not proud of what I did. But I think if that confrontation yields to public knowledge on their (the public's) rights and the interactions that they can have with Police, then I am willing to take whatever follow-up comes from that interaction." Amazing!

Not surprising, though, as has been established as part and parcel of his modus operandi, Dennison is now seeking to benefit financially, or come up, as folks in the streets would say, from his theatrics in this latest episode.

"Oh, yes, of course," he told the news reporter. "In fact, at previous Senate meetings, I've already told the Attorney General that they've been doing me this, and that the next time it happens, I will sue. So, yes, I've already instructed counsel."

Bear in mind, this is the same Glenfield Dennison who claimed he was applying his legal skills as a trained attorney and his moral obligation as a trade unionist to provide free advice to former BTL workers in their effort to collect severance payment from that company, then turned around and attempted to charge BTL for counsel he claimed to have provided to those former workers through the so-called Belize Communication Workers for Justice (BCWJ).

As it turned out, the invoice submitted to BTL was exposed as being fraudulent in that it quoted a Tax Identification Number (TIN) that did not exist, and the purported company was not registered with the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) as would be required by law. Also, the rate he attempted to charge BTL for legal services was grossly inflated, at $900 per hour, which should be charged only by a senior council. (Dennison is not a senior council).

And then, there was the overarching question of whether Dennison as a publicly paid Crown Council was in violation of Public Service Regulations which explicitly state, "A judicial and legal officer shall not engage in any private legal work or private business of a legal nature."

Similarly, Dennison had billed and collected fees from the People's Constitution Commission to the tune of over $86,000.00 for merely reviewing portions of the commission's report, while again giving the impression publicly that he was participating in the process as a matter of civic duty and patriotic honor as an appointed member of the commission.

After being exposed for his failed attempt to 'come up' from the purported free legal advice to former BTL workers, Dennison used his parliamentary privilege in the Upper House during the Debate on the National Budget to assert, in a most bizarre manner, that he should somehow be regarded as a model and inspiration to disadvantaged youths from the streets of Belize City who are aspiring for purpose and success. God forbid.

The last thing our young people need is an example and encouragement to defraud the system and defy the laws that promote safety, security and stability. What our youths need now more than ever are models of discipline and hard-work, respect for authority, and commitment to community service.

NATIONAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION (NEMO)

INVITATION TO BID

SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF HUMANITARIAN EMERGENCY RESPONSE SUPPLIES

The National Emergency Management Organization (NEMO), acting through the Ministry of the Public Service, Governance and Disaster Risk Management, hereby invites eligible and qualified bidders to submit sealed bids for the ***Supply and Delivery of Humanitarian Emergency Response Supplies*** for the period **July 20, 2026 to August 14, 2026.** The bidding will be conducted on a Lot basis under the following categories:

LOT NO.	CATEGORY
1	Emergency Family Food Package
2	Family Hygiene Kit
3	Household Cleaning Items
4	Foam Mattresses
5	Purified Water

All interested bidders may contact the National Emergency Coordinator of the National Emergency Management Organization at the address below to obtain, in person, the ***complete package of the bidding documents***, or download the bid package free of charge from procurement.gov.bz. There are no fees for the bidding documents. Bidders must meet the minimum requirements as indicated in the ***Instructions to Bidders.***

The Tender Package must be collected from the National Emergency Coordinator of the National Emergency Management Organization at the address provided below during normal working hours. All tender submissions must be returned to the address below no later than ***10:00 a.m. on Friday, June 19, 2026.*** Late bids will be rejected. All bids shall be accompanied by a **Bid Securing Declaration** as specified in the Instructions to Bidders, together with the completed Specifications and Schedule of Requirements (Excel price file, all prices entered) on a USB flash drive inside the sealed bid.

On Friday, June 5, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. a pre-bid meeting will be held at the National Emergency Management Organization at the address provided below.

The address referred to above is:

National Emergency Coordinator
National Emergency Management Organization
Melhado Parade
City of Belmopan
Belize
Tel: (501) 822-2054 / 822-2058
Email: nemohqbmp@nemo.org.bz

COUNTRYWIDE LABOUR EDUCATION SESSIONS:

Rights & Responsibilities of Workers and Employers

A countrywide labour education session has been conducted by the Ministry of Immigration, Governance, and Labour, which began on 23 May 2026, at the Alaia Resort Conference Room in San Pedro, concluding at the Punta Gorda Town Council in Punta Gorda Town on Saturday, 30 May 2026.

It is a concerted effort, the Belize Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI) and the National Trade Congress of Belize (NTUCB) contributed to the nationwide discussion. Each of the sessions brought together workers, employers, and stakeholders for an informative and interactive conversation regarding workplace rights and the relevant responsibilities. It also provided the participants with a clear understanding of the labour standards and fair workplace practices.

The main focus of the Labour Education Campaign was concentrated on key pieces of legislation, including the Labour Act, the Shop Act, the Trade Union Act, and the Essential Services Act. Additionally, it brought clarity to regulations in relation to maternity leave, vacation benefits, and overtime remuneration, and how disputes and grievances are resolved. One clarification was brought to the fore when BCCI representatives were doing their media rounds in promoting the event.

Vernon Avila, Labour Officer of the BCCI, explained the differentiation in how vacation leave is calculated as per the Shop Act 287 versus the Labour Act 297. Vernon explained that by the strictures of the Shop Act, vacation is calculated after one month of being employed, while under the Labour Act, the employee has to be working for three months. Another point is the length of the probationary period for workers, which as summited by the Labour Officer should not go beyond six months.

At the opening of the countrywide Labour Education initiative, in San Pedro, Mayor Gualberto "Wally" Nunez, in his address to the attendees underscored the importance of respecting and adhering to the relevant laws, intended to create a fair, productive, and well-functioning workplace.

Incidentally, the Ministry had engaged in an educational session in late October 2025, with Belize's growing labour market, the BPO sector. It involved the Human Resources Operations team of Transparent BPO and Alta Resources Call Centre in Belize City. Similarly, the focus was on upholding workplace standards and promoting an environment of fairness and compliance with the business process outsourcing (BPO) sector.

Importantly, the countrywide workshops have served as an important component in preventing misunderstandings and keeping local businesses compliant with Belize's labour regulations. It also underscores this government's commitment to promote fair labour practices, informed workplaces, and compliance across the nation, preserving the rights of the working man and woman.

By Hilly Bennet

ADDRESS TO CLASS OF 2026

Continued from page 8

move on from junior college, do not just rely on the static knowledge you have stored. Instead, commit to being a "lifelong learner"—continuously updating your own algorithm, seeking new and contradictory data, and refining your understanding of the world. Your degree is not the final output; it is just the foundation model upon which you will build everything else.

The rise of AI also poses a direct challenge that you are uniquely positioned to answer. Many people fear that automation will replace human effort, making certain skills obsolete. But graduation is not about competing with machines at their own game—speed, calculation, or rote memory. Your power lies in the qualities AI cannot replicate: genuine empathy, ethical judgment, the ability to inspire others, and the courage to embrace ambiguity. In a world that can generate an essay or a piece of art in seconds, your unique voice, your lived experiences, and your personal integrity become your most valuable assets. Let AI manage the routine tasks, but you handle the human ones: lead with compassion, think critically about the information you receive, and build relationships that no chatbot could ever sustain.

So, as you step into the next chapter, do not fear the algorithm—learn to orchestrate it. Use technology as a tool to amplify your creativity and productivity but never let it define your purpose. The future belongs not to those who can simply process data the fastest, but to those who can ask the right questions, who can connect seemingly unrelated ideas, and who can act with moral clarity.

Before I close, let us acknowledge those who supported you along the way:

To the parents and guardians—your sacrifices, encouragement, and unwavering belief made this day possible.

To the teachers and staff of Centro Escolar Mexico Junior College—you did not simply teach lessons. You helped to shape futures.

And to the graduates—this achievement belongs to you. But it is also the result of a community that believed in you.

Class of 2026, the chapter ends tonight. You close this book with a diploma in your hand and a story of resilience behind you. But I feel compelled to send a Message to you the Dreamers and Builders.

Graduates, some of you will go on to become leaders, entrepreneurs, educators, healthcare professionals, artists, innovators. Some of you will create opportunities not just for yourselves—but for others. And some of you will discover your purpose in places you never expected. Whatever path you choose, remember this:

You are not just entering the world. You are helping to shape it.

Your ideas matter. Your voice matters. Your actions matter.

In Closing:

Class of 2026, today you close a chapter filled with growth, friendship, and discovery. Tomorrow, you begin writing a new one—one that has no limits except those you place on yourself. So, step forward with confidence. Step forward with courage. Step forward knowing that your possibilities are not just many—they are endless.

Congratulations, Class of 2026. Your story is just beginning.

Go! Be endless! Be possible! Be proud!

Thank you!

Specific Procurement Notice

BELIZE Social Investment Fund

Request for Bids Goods

(One-Envelope Bidding Process)

Country: *Belize*

Name of Project: *Climate Resilient and Sustainable Agriculture Project*

Contract Title: *Supply of Field Equipment and Kits for BAHA, Central Farm, and Extension Department*

Loan No./Credit No./ Grant No.: *P172592*

RFB Reference No.: *BZ-SIF-474189-GO-RFB*

1. The *Government of Belize has received* financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the *Climate Resilient and Sustainable Agriculture Project* and intends to apply part of the proceeds toward payments under the contract for *Supply of Field Equipment and kits for BAHA, Central Farm and Extension Department.*

2. The *Belize Social Investment Fund* now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for the *procurement of Goods for the Supply of Field Equipment and kits for BAHA, Central Farm and Extension Department.*

3. Bidding will be conducted through national competitive procurement using a Request for Bids (RFB) as specified in the World Bank's "Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers" *November 2020* ("Procurement Regulations") and is open to all eligible Bidders as defined in the Procurement Regulations.

4. Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from *Belize Social Investment Fund, Ms. Jahnina Reyes, Procurement Officer procurement.cresap@sifbelize.org* and inspect the bidding document during office hours *8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.* at the address given below.

5. The bidding document in *English* may be requested by interested Bidders upon the submission of a written application to the address below.

6. Bids must be delivered to the address below *10:00 a.m. Belize local time* on or before *June 19th, 2026.* Electronic Bidding will not be permitted. Late Bids will be rejected. Bids will be publicly opened in the presence of the Bidders' designated representatives and anyone who chooses to attend at the address below on *June 19th, 2026, at 10;30 a.m.*

7. All Bids must be accompanied by a or *"Bid-Securing Declaration,".*

8. Attention is drawn to the Procurement Regulations requiring the Borrower to disclose

information on the successful bidder's beneficial ownership, as part of the Contract Award

Notice, using the Beneficial Ownership Disclosure Form as included in the bidding document.

9. The address(es) referred to above is:

Belize Social Investment Fund
Ms. Jahnina Reyes, Procurement Officer
P.O. Box 459, 2nd Floor Building C, 4253 Hummingbird Highway,
City of Belmopan, Belize C.A.
Tel: +501-822-0239
procurement.cresap@sifbelize.org

HRCU

82nd AGM

Will be held on

Saturday
May 30, 2026

2:00 P.M.Sharp
Belize Civic Center

Member-owners
PLEASE BE PRESENT
For Your "Business Meeting".

Come Listen To Reports
About Your Credit Union

You must present your
HRCU passbook,
and a valid ID,
to enter venue.

HRCU... making a difference in *people's lives!*

www.hrcubelize.org | Holy Redeemer Credit Union Limited | 280-4320

WORK CONTINUES IN 2026

Hon. Kevin Bernard, OW East

Hands-on Roadworks

Always in tandem w/ Mayor Sheppard

Punta Gorda TC

Upgrade to Welcome Center

Hon. Ramon Cervantes, OW North

Mother's Day events continue

Belize City Council

CEMO's Flood Mitigation Campaign

Min. Anthony Mahler, Tourism

w/ BTB in Guatemala

Min Espat & MIDH All Over Belize

Guardrails at OW Bypass

Bridge at Black Creek, Toledo

Hon. Osmond Martinez, Toledo East

Construction Begins in San Pablo, St. Paul's PS

Rodney Moguel Area in Czl Bay

MI 7 Philip G. Highway

By Loma Luz, Cayo

PUP
PEOPLE'S UNITED PARTY

'SEGUIMOS MUY BIEN'

MRT- ILO – EU Launch in Southern Belize PROSPER Project

Ministry of Rural Transformation, ILO, and EU Launch PROSPER Project in Southern Belize.

Yesterday, the Ministry of Rural Transformation, Community Development and Local Government, in partnership with the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the European Union, took a major step forward for rural economic growth by officially launching the EU-funded PROSPER project for Hopkins, Seine Bight, and Maya Center villages.

As the first three of 15 southern communities to benefit, this cohort marks the direct rollout of enterprise support, value-chain development, and targeted skills training at Julian Cho, Corazon Creek, and Georgetown Technical High Schools, paving the way for decent work opportunities in sustainable tourism and cacao agroforestry that will directly empower women, youth, and local economies. (post)

BELIZEPROPERTYAUCTIONS.COM

COUNTRYWIDE PUBLIC AUCTION SALES: PROPERTIES & VESSEL

Chan Chen, Corozal North, Corozal District; San Jose, Orange Walk District:

BY ORDER of the Mortgagees Messrs. St. Francis Xavier Credit Union Ltd., Licensed Auctioneers Kevin A. Castillo and Christiana R. Castillo are selling ONLINE via belizepropertyauctions.com the following properties and vessel. Sales currently running and will expire fortnightly on the dates and times listed on the website until these properties and vessel are sold.

1. Parcel 34/1 Chan Chen Village, Corozal District:

REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
Chan Chen	1	34/1
The leasehold property of Mr. Antonio Loza.		

2. Parcel No. 235 Sibun Street, Altamira, Corozal Town, Corozal District:

REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
Corozal North	1	235
The freehold property of Mr. Urbin Castro.		

3. Parcel No. 889 San Jose Village Extension (La Cooperativa Layout), Orange Walk District:

REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
San Jose/ San Pablo	1	889
The freehold property of Ms. Celeni Reyes.		

4. 28 Ft Wooden Sailing Vessel

"FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION & PHOTOGRAPHS
PLEASE VISIT WEBSITE"
TERMS: STRICTLYCASH
KEVIN A. CASTILLO
TELEPHONE: 223-4488
Website: belizepropertyauctions.com
E-mail: kevinacas@yahoo.com
Facebook: Belize Auction

Ministry of Agriculture - AMEXCID Cattle Reproductive Technology Week-long Training Program

May 26, 2026 - The Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security, and New Growth Industries (MAFSNGI), in partnership with the Mexican Agency for International Development Cooperation (AMEXCID), has launched a week-long training program on reproductive technology in livestock being held at the Cayo Central Farm Extension Office Conference Room, from May 25 to May 29, 2026.

The initiative brings together MAFSNGI extension officers, University of Belize Central Farm

field technicians, and Belize Livestock Producers Association (BLPA) technicians to strengthen technical expertise in livestock management. The training program was opened by Hon. Rodwell Ferguson, Minister of Agriculture, Food Security, and New Growth Industries, and attended by Hon. Luis Alex Balona, Minister of State.

The training focuses on:

- **Integrated forage management** in monoculture systems to improve sustainability.
- **Nutritional conditioning** of regional livestock to enhance productivity.
- **Capacity building** to reduce inefficiencies in cattle and small ruminant milk and meat production.

This collaborative effort underscores the commitment of both Belize and Mexico to advancing agricultural innovation and food security in the region. By equipping local technicians and extension officers with cutting-edge knowledge, the program aims to boost efficiency, improve livestock health, and contribute to the long-term resilience of Belize's agricultural sector. (release)

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT)

Consultancy Services to conduct the Midterm Evaluation for the Program for Digital Innovation to Boost Economic Development in Belize– BL-L1039

Institution: Ministry of Finance
Country: Belize, Central America
Project: Digital Innovation to Boost Economic Development in Belize
Process ID: BL-L1039 – P00052
Deadline: **June 17th, 2026**; 10:00 a.m. (Local Belize Time)

The Government of Belize has received loan financing from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) for the execution of the – "Program for Digital Innovation to Boost Economic Development in Belize (DIBE)" being implemented by the Ministry of Finance.

The Ministry of Finance, through its Central Executing Unit, intends to allocate a portion of the project's proceeds to procure the services of an Individual Consultant to conduct the **Midterm Evaluation for the Program for Digital Innovation to Boost Economic Development in Belize**

The Ministry of Finance invites interested individuals to access the full version of this request for expression of interest online at https://procurement.gov.bz/opportunities/ or by scanning the QR code below, and to submit their application in accordance with the instructions provided in the full version.

Procurement Specialist
Central Executing Unit
Ministry of Finance
2nd Floor, Sir Edney Cain Building
Belmopan, Belize
Email: procurement@ceu.mof.gov.bz

Ref: **Consultancy Service to conduct the Midterm Evaluation for the DIBE Program (BL-L1039)** – Your name

Atlantic Hurricane Season: June 1 – November 30 National Emergency Management Organization

Hurricane Safety Rules:

1. Stay tuned to radio and television stations for regular bulletins.
2. Rely only on official bulletins; do not check these over the telephone.
3. As long as your house is inland and well built-with strong foundations and a good roof, stay at home.
4. Use storm shutters or board windows securely, Protect outward door.
5. Stock up on food which has a long shelf life.
6. Check that oil and butane stoves are in working order- replenish stock of kerosene, charcoal and butane.
7. Sterilize baths; all containers and cooking utensils to store water. If in doubt, drink boiled or treated water only.
8. Keep flashlights, candles and storm lanterns handy along with batteries and matches.
9. Store all garden implements and furniture inside if possible.
10. Lighten foliage of fruit trees near buildings. If very strong winds are likely, remove all coconuts.
11. If you are evacuating, leave early so that you are not stranded by flooded roads, fallen trees, wires and traffic jams and make sure you have enough fuel in your vehicle and follow routes and highways.
12. If there is a lull after the 'eye' of the storm has passed, stay in a safe place, except to make emergency repairs. The wind may return suddenly with even greater strength.
13. Since 90 percent of hurricane casualties occur from drowning, you must evacuate islands and beaches and other vulnerable locations as early as possible.
14. Those seeking shelter should shut off water, gas and electricity before leaving home. (NEMO)

Hurricane Season Forecast to be Milder than Normal Thanks to El Nino (pt1)

by Seth Borenstein/AP

Meteorologists predict a developing El Nino could dampen the upcoming Atlantic hurricane season, but it won't eliminate storms. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration forecasts a below-average season with fewer named storms and hurricanes. Colorado State University expects the lowest activity since 2015.

El Nino is a warming of the central Pacific that typically reduces Atlantic storms by creating strong wind shear that disrupts storm formation. However, El Nino can increase storm activity in the Pacific, affecting regions like Japan and Korea.

A developing El Nino that is forecast to get quite strong will likely dampen the upcoming Atlantic hurricane season, but it won't make the potentially deadly storms disappear, (US) federal and outside meteorologists predict. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration issued its seasonal outlook for the Atlantic, giving a 55% chance of a below-average season. The agency forecasts eight to **14 named storms, with three to six of them becoming strong enough to hit hurricane status and one to three of those intensifying to major hurricanes.** A normal hurricane season has 14 named storms, seven of them becoming hurricanes and three of them reaching major hurricane level, which is more than 110 mph (177 kph).

Eighteen other groups, private and academic, have also forecast what they think the season will be like and most of them also call for a below average summer and fall. Those other forecasts average a dozen named storms, only five becoming hurricanes and two of those being major ones. Those forecasts also call for the Accumulated Cyclone Energy index, which takes into account strength and duration of storms, to be 80% of normal.

Colorado State University, which pioneered the science of hurricane seasonal forecasting in 1984, is predicting the lowest overall activity since 2015, which was the strongest El Nino in the last 75 years. And that forecast is likely to be revised to even lower numbers in June, said Colorado State's hurricane expert Phil Klotzbach.

This is after nine of the last 10 Atlantic hurricane seasons have been above normal or even hyperactive, Klotzbach said. Last year started slow, but then had a burst, producing a near-record total of three Category 5 hurricanes, including Melissa which devastated Jamaica and Cuba, said Suzana Camargo, a climate scientist and tropical weather expert at Columbia University.

Inflation-adjusted damage across the globe from tropical cyclones has increased from an average of $11.4 billion a year in the 1980s to $109.7 billion a year over the past 10 years, with three-quarters of the damage done in the Atlantic, Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean, according to insurance giant Munich Re. Hurricanes, typhoons and cyclones are the same weather event, with the different names being used in different parts of the world. (AP)

NOAA considers AI-driven models to be a promising complement to traditional hurricane forecasting, noting that they significantly improve the speed and accuracy of storm track and intensity predictions. However, NOAA stresses that AI does not replace human meteorologists, who must still interpret the data and issue official alerts for the Caribbean and Belize. (NOAA) There are 21 names using the modern roman alphabet with Q, U, X, Y, Z shunned due to the difficulty of getting suitable names using these. Greek alphabet letter had to be used in 2020

2026 List of North Atlantic Basin Hurricanes

(rotated every 6 years)

Arthur - Bertha - Cristobal - Dolly - Edouard - Fay - Gonzalo - Hanna - Isaias - Josephine Kyle – Leah(only new name this year) - Marco - Nana - Omar - Paulette - Rene - Sally

Alternate List to be used if the 21 names above are all used.

(first used in 2021 after Greek Letters seemed to confuse)

Adria, Braylen, Caridad, Deshawn, Emery, Foster, Gemma, Heath, Isla, Jacobus, Kenzie, Lucio, Makayla, Nolan, Orlanda, Pax, Ronin, Sophie, Tayshaun, Viviana, and Will

Editor: The Belize Times will weekly provide varied information on Hurricanes, weather and climate

2026 Atlantic Basin Hurricane Season Opens

Belmopan, May 28, 2026 release

This coming Monday, June 1, marks the official start of the 2026 hurricane season for the Atlantic Basin. The season runs from June 1 to November 30 each year. However, there are occasions when a tropical cyclone may form outside of this period.

The 2026 forecast suggests that tropical cyclone activity will be slightly below normal in the Atlantic Basin. The prediction is for eight to fourteen named storms. Of those, three to six are expected to become hurricanes, and one to three are expected to become major hurricanes (Category 3 or stronger). An average season in the Atlantic Basin consists of fourteen named storms, seven hurricanes, and three major hurricanes.

The two main factors that are likely to influence the 2026 Atlantic hurricane season are:

- There is a high chance that a strong El Niño will develop during the 2026 Hurricane Season. An El Niño typically results in below-normal tropical cyclone activity in the Atlantic Basin.

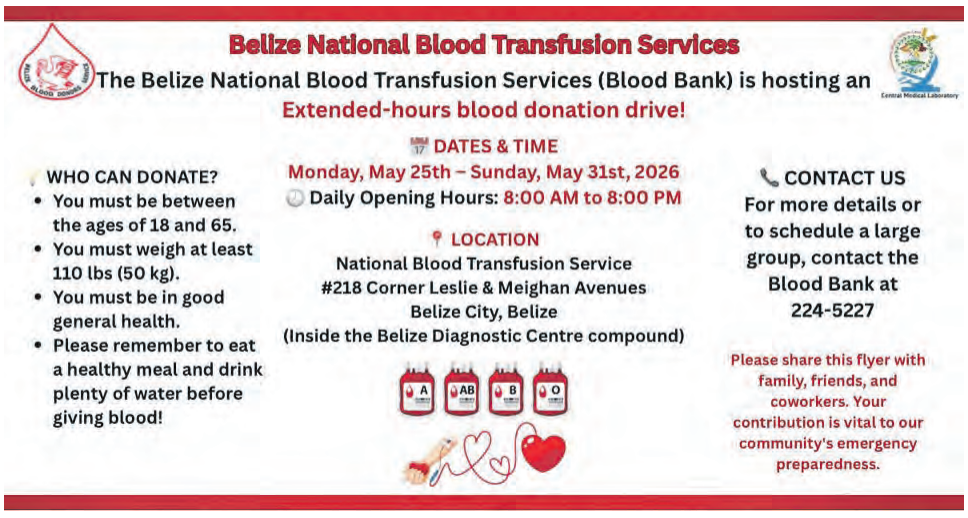
- However, warmer-than-average sea surface temperatures are expected in the Atlantic Basin, providing more energy to fuel tropical cyclone development.

Seasonal predictions indicate how active a particular hurricane season is expected to be, but not when a particular hurricane will develop or where it will track once developed. One or more of the 8 to 14 named storms forecasted to develop this season could hit the country, or none at all. Therefore, as a nation located in an area vulnerable to the hazards posed by tropical cyclones, preparations should be made each year, regardless of the forecast.

The team of experts at the National Meteorological Service (NMS) of Belize in the Ministry of the Public Service and Disaster Risk Management will use all assets at its disposal to monitor and track developing systems and alert the National Emergency Management Organization (NEMO) and the general public promptly should any system pose a threat to Belize. NEMO and its Operational Committees at the national, district, and community levels will respond to potential threats with urgency and will activate the National Hurricane Response Plan when needed.

The NMS and NEMO take this opportunity to advise members of the general public to continue their preparations, revise and update their family, business, and individual emergency plans, and be prepared for any eventuality during the 2026 Hurricane Season.

The public is also reminded that it is an offence to share false information. Only official information from the NMS and NEMO should be followed. The public is also urged to access official information via the websites of the National Meteorological Service (www.nms.gov.bz) and the National Emergency Management Organization (www.nemo.org.bz), through the Met Service app. The app is available on Google Play, Apple Store, and the social media pages of both organizations' Facebook, TikTok, and WhatsApp channels. **(release)**


Belize National Blood Transfusion Services
The Belize National Blood Transfusion Services (Blood Bank) is hosting an
Extended-hours blood donation drive!
DATES & TIME
Monday, May 25th – Sunday, May 31st, 2026
Daily Opening Hours: 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM
LOCATION
National Blood Transfusion Service
#218 Corner Leslie & Meighan Avenues
Belize City, Belize
(Inside the Belize Diagnostic Centre compound)
WHO CAN DONATE?
You must be between the ages of 18 and 65.
You must weigh at least 110 lbs (50 kg).
You must be in good general health.
Please remember to eat a healthy meal and drink plenty of water before giving blood!
CONTACT US
For more details or to schedule a large group, contact the Blood Bank at 224-5227
Please share this flyer with family, friends, and coworkers. Your contribution is vital to our community's emergency preparedness.

NOTICE OF LOST REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE:

Notice is hereby given that the original Certificate of Registration issued by the Port of Authority of Belize dated 3rd January 2008 for cargo boat, **MUD BONE**, to **Grove Industries Ltd**. has been lost.

Any person finding the certificate or having information regarding its whereabouts is requested to return it to:

Port Authority of Belize
Mile 4 George Price Hwy.
Belize City, Belize.
Tel: 222-5666.

BELIZEPROPERTYAUCTIONS.COM PUBLIC AUCTION SALE: VEHICLE

San Ignacio, Cayo District

BY ORDER of the Mortgagees Messrs. The Belize Bank Limited, Licensed Auctioneers Kevin A. Castillo and Christiana R. Castillo are selling ONLINE via belizepropertyauctions.com the following vehicle. **Sale currently running and will expire fortnightly on the date and time listed on the website until this vehicle is sold.**

2015 Black Chevy Cruze

"FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION & PHOTOGRAPHS PLEASE VISIT WEBSITE"
TERMS: STRICTLYCASH
KEVIN A. CASTILLO TELEPHONE 223-4488
Website: belizepropertyauctions.com
E-mail:kevinacas@yahoo.com
Facebook: Belize Auctions

Consultancy Services to Develop a Digital Workspace for the Public Sector Investment Programme

Publication reference: TCF/NDICI/PE1/SER/MIS/02

The Ministry of Finance, Investment, **Economic Transformation**, Civil Aviation & E-Governance intends to award a service contract to develop a digital workspace for the Public Sector Investment Programme in Belmopan, Belize with financial assistance from the European Union Technical Cooperation Facility. The tender dossier is accessible from the Ministry of Economic Transformation, Sir Edney Cain Building, Belmopan, Belize by emailing procurement@met.gov.bz or from the the Ministry's website at https://met.gov.bz/tender/.

The deadline for submission of applications is **23rd June 2026 at 10:00 a.m.** local time.

BDF Receives Donation

The Belize Defense Force has increased its emergency response capacity by doubling its ambulance fleet and introducing its first-ever X-ray machine and automated external defibrillator to be access by their medical staff.

This equipment was donated by Tonic Life Belize through businessman Issac Fehr. The new additions will not only serve soldiers but also residents in the Ladyville and Lord's Bank communities.

Minister of National Defense Florencio Marin Junior, BDF Commandant Brigadier General Anthony Velasquez, and the donor are lauding the new equipment.

Issac Fehr is a businessman in the medical field who has previously operated out of Mexico. The Belize Defense Force thanks the donor for the generous offering.

INVESTING IN
BELIZE'S
FUTURE
FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE IS HELPING STUDENTS ACROSS BELIZE STAY IN SCHOOL AND CONTINUE THEIR EDUCATION.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH & WELLNESS
Equal Health for All
CENTRAL HEALTH REGION
CHR

UPDATED CONTACT INFORMATION
FOR HEALTH FACILITIES IN CENTRAL HEALTH REGION

Please use the following updated contact numbers to reach our health facilities.

SAN PEDRO POLYCLINIC San Pedro Town, Ambergris Caye	280-2536
CLEOPATRA WHITE POLYCLINIC Belize City, Belize	223-0131 / 224-5213
MATRON ROBERTS POLYCLINIC Belize City, Belize	227-7170
LADYVILLE HEALTH CENTER Ladyville, Belize	225-2764
HATTIEVILLE HEALTH CENTER Hattieville, Belize	225-6106
CAYE CAULKER HEALTH CENTER Caye Caulker, Belize	226-0166
CENTRAL HEALTH REGION MAIN OFFICE Belize City, Belize	280-1830

Your health is our priority. Thank you for helping us build a stronger, healthier Central Health Region.
Equal Health for All

Ministry of Human Development Hosts Special Meeting on Understanding Sexual Offences in Belize

May 27, 2026 - The Ministry of Human Development, Family Support and Gender Affairs, in collaboration with the National Commission for Families and Children (NCFC) and the National Women's Commission (NWC), hosted a Special Meeting on Understanding Sexual Offences in Belize at the Western Regional Hospital Vaccination Building Conference Room in Belmopan on May 27, 2026.

The session brought together representatives from the judiciary, law enforcement, social services, healthcare, academia, and advocacy organizations to discuss the legal framework surrounding sexual offences in Belize and the challenges survivors often face when seeking justice and support services.

Participants included representatives from the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Council (A-TIPS), the District Gender and Gender-Based Violence Committee, the Family Support and Gender Affairs Department (FSGAD), the High Court, Galen University, the Ministry of Health and Wellness, Human Development Coordinators (HDCs), social planners from the Ministry of Human Development, the National Women's Commission, the Office of the Special Envoy, the Department of Human Services, and the Police Department's Gender-Based Violence Response and Investigation Unit (GVRIU).

Facilitated by Justice Antoinette Moore and Justice Natalie Creary-Dixon, discussions focused on sexual offences under Belize's Criminal Code, including rape, unlawful sexual intercourse, incest, sexual assault, the Sex Offenders Registry, and counseling requirements. Presentations also explored the Trafficking in Persons Act, Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC), and the Protection of Witnesses Act.

One of the key discussions centered on the experiences of survivors and the gaps that continue to exist from the point of reporting to the court process. Stakeholders also examined opportunities for greater coordination and improvements in services and legal protections.

The Ministry of Human Development, Family Support and Gender Affairs continues to work alongside national partners to promote awareness, strengthen interagency collaboration, and support efforts aimed at protecting vulnerable individuals and families across Belize. (release)

BTB in Guatemala

REGIONAL TOURISM PARTNERSHIPS

Belize participated in a productive working meeting in Guatemala with Hon. Anthony Mahler, Minister of Tourism, Youth, Sports, and Diaspora Relations, and Chief Tourism Officer Mr. Josue Carballo, alongside representatives from INGUAT, including Bianka Espósito, Acting Director General of INGUAT.

The meeting focused on strengthening regional tourism partnerships and advancing collaborative initiatives that support the continued growth and development of the tourism sector.

The discussions underscored the importance of regional cooperation and ongoing collaboration in positioning the region as a diverse and sustainable destination for global travelers. (BTB post)

City Emergency Management Organization

Flooding Mitigation Campaign

GOVERNMENT OF BELIZE

MINISTRY OF FINANCE, INVESTMENT, ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION, CIVIL AVIATION & E-GOVERNANCE

PROJECT: RESILIENT RURAL BELIZE PROGRAMME

ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE – SAN JOSE FARM ROAD (3.5KM)
Reference Number: RRB.W.16.1

INVITATION TO BID – WORKS

The Government of Belize (GOB) has received financing from the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) in an amount equivalent to US$5 Million towards the cost of the Resilient Rural Belize Programme and intends to apply a portion of the proceeds to eligible payments under this contract. Payment by CDB will be made only at the request of GOB and upon approval by CDB, and will be subject, in all respects, to the terms and conditions of the Loan Agreement. The Loan Agreement prohibits a withdrawal from the Loan Account for the purpose of any payment to persons or entities, or for any import of goods, if such payment or import, to the knowledge of CDB, is prohibited by a decision of the United Nations Security Council taken under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations. No party, other than GOB, shall derive any rights from the Loan Agreement or have any claim to the proceeds of the Loan.

The Resilient Rural Belize Programme (RRB) is the Executing Agency for the Project, and the Ministry of Finance, Investment, Economic Transformation, Civil Aviation & E-Governance, is responsible for the overall implementation of the project. RRB invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for Road Infrastructure – San Jose Farm Road (3.5 km), Toledo District. The works include, but may not be limited to, the upgrading of the San Jose Farm Road, Toledo District, to a traversable standard over a length of approximately 3.5 kilometres (km) and comprises the following:

- Clearing of road reserve
- Undercutting of soft material and disposal
- Excavation and cleaning of side drains
- Installation of grouted riprap for embankment protection
- Supply and installation of concrete ford crossings
- Supply, transportation, placement and compaction of fill materials

The bidding process is conducted according to the procedures specified in the Procurement Procedures for Projects Financed by CDB (January, 2021), as published on CDB's website and is open to all bidders from eligible countries.

Eligible countries are member countries of CDB. Bidders are advised to review the relevant eligibility criteria detailed in Section 4 and conflict of interest provisions in Section 5 of the Procurement Procedures for Projects Financed by CDB (January, 2021), as published on CDB's website.

Firms, whether applying individually or in the form of a Joint Venture, shall:

(a) be legally incorporated or otherwise organised in, and have their principal place of business in an Eligible Country;
(b) be more than fifty (50) percent beneficially-owned by a citizen or citizens and/or a bona fide resident or residents of an Eligible Country, or by a body corporate or bodies meeting these requirements, as far as the ownership can be reasonably determined; and
(c) shall have no arrangement and undertake not to make any arrangement whereby the majority of the financial benefits of the contract, i.e. more than fifty (50) percent of the value of the contract, will accrue or be paid to sub-contractors or sub-consultants that are not from an Eligible Country.

Eligible bidders will be required to submit full qualification information with their bids establishing their eligibility to bid and qualification to perform the contract if the bid is accepted.

Qualification requirements include, inter alia:
(a) an average annual turnover (defined as certified payments received for works in progress or completed) within the last 5 years of at least Five Million Belize Dollars (5,000,000 BZD);
(b) a demonstrable cash flow (including access to credit) of Three Hundred Seventy Thousand Belize Dollars (370,000 BZD); anD
(c) experience as prime contractor in the construction of at least one (1) assignment of a nature, scope and complexity comparable to the proposed project activity within the last five (5) years (to comply with this requirement, works quoted should be at least 80 percent complete).

Bidding and qualification information are to be submitted in the **English Language** on the prescribed forms inserted in the Bid Documents. Submissions that do not provide the information required or that do not demonstrate the prospective supplier's ability to perform satisfactorily, will not qualify and will not be considered for further evaluation.

Requests for electronic copies of bidding documents may be made in writing to the first address below. Electronic copies of bidding documents will be provided to requesting bidders free of cost. Written applications must be clearly marked: **"Request for Bid Documents for Road Infrastructure – San Jose Farm Road (3.5 km)".**

The electronic Bidding submission procedures are as follows: Electronic Bids shall be submitted by email, as a password protected single attachment, in pdf format, by the deadline and to the second email address stated below. The password shall be submitted in a separate email, five (5) to ten (10) minutes after the bid submission deadline and before the public opening of bids.

Hard copies of Bids must be submitted as follows: one (1) original and two (2) copies in one envelope sealed and marked as indicated in the bidding document, with the name and address of the bidder, and be clearly marked "Bid for Road Infrastructure – San Jose Farm Road (3.5 km)" and in addition, one copy of the bid shall be an electronic copy saved on a flash drive also included in the sealed envelope, to the third address below. Electronic or physical bids must be delivered no later than **July 2, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. (local time)**. Bids will be opened publicly immediately after the deadline for submission of bids, in the presence of Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the third address below. Qualification information **only** must be simultaneously submitted to the fourth e-mail address below.

Each bid must be accompanied by a completed, signed Bid-Securing Declaration. Late bids will be rejected.
GOB reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, and to annul the process and reject all bids, at any time prior to award of contract, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected prospective bidder(s) or any obligation to inform the affected prospective bidder(s) of the grounds for GOB action. GOB will not defray any costs incurred by any bidder in the preparation of bids.

(1) Address and information for Requesting Bidding Documents and Requesting Clarifications: Attention: Senior Procurement Officer Street Address: Hummingbird Highway, National Agriculture Show Grounds City: City of Belmopan, Cayo District Country: Belize, C.A. Electronic mail address: **lpalacio.rrb@met.gov.bz** Copied to: Eemyiah Castillo, **ecastillo.rrb@met.gov.bz**	(2) Address and information for electronic Bid Submission and Bid Opening: Electronic mail address: **procurement.rrb@met.gov.bz**
(3) Address and information for Physical Bid Submission and Bid Opening Venue: Attention: Senior Procurement Officer Resilient Rural Belize Programme Street Address: Hummingbird Highway, National Agriculture Show Grounds City: City of Belmopan, Cayo District Country: Belize, C.A.	(4) Caribbean Development Bank Tel: (+1246) 539-1600 Email: **procurement@caribank.org**

MRT
Maintenance Tools to Stann Creek Communities

Ministry of Rural Transformation Hands Over Maintenance Tools to Stann Creek Communities.

Taking advantage of our official visit to the Stann Creek District today, the Ministry of Rural Transformation handed over heavy-duty weed whackers to the village councils of Valley Community, Santa Rosa, and San Roman.

The purpose of this handover is to directly assist these village councils with the ongoing maintenance and beautification of public spaces within their respective communities. By providing these essential tools, the Ministry ensures that local areas remain clean, safe, and well-kept for all residents. This initiative reflects the Ministry's unwavering commitment to empowering our village councils and equipping them with the resources necessary to serve their communities effectively. (post)

PUP
PEOPLE'S UNITED PARTY

LIQUOR LICENSE NOTICES:

Notice is hereby given that Eleanor Good is applying for a Shop Liquor License to be operated at "ELI-RAY" located at # 387 Poinsettia Street Belize City, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that Janice E. Silva is applying for a Publican Special Liquor License to be operated at "Benque Love" located at Hills of Promise, Benque Viejo, Cayo District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that Isau R. Vasques is applying for a Publican Special Liquor License to be operated at "Running Waters Cool Spot" located in Calla Creek Village, Cayo District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

GOVERNMENT OF BELIZE

MINISTRY OF FINANCE, INVESTMENT, ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION, CIVIL AVIATION & E-GOVERNANCE

PROJECT: RESILIENT RURAL BELIZE PROGRAMME

ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE – SANTA CRUZ ROAD (5.2 KM)
Reference Number: RRB.W.17.1

INVITATION TO BID – WORKS

The Government of Belize (GOB) has received financing from the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) in an amount equivalent to US$5 Million towards the cost of the Resilient Rural Belize Programme and intends to apply a portion of the proceeds to eligible payments under this contract. Payment by CDB will be made only at the request of GOB and upon approval by CDB, and will be subject, in all respects, to the terms and conditions of the Loan Agreement. The Loan Agreement prohibits a withdrawal from the Loan Account for the purpose of any payment to persons or entities, or for any import of goods, if such payment or import, to the knowledge of CDB, is prohibited by a decision of the United Nations Security Council taken under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations. No party other than GOB shall derive any rights from the Loan Agreement or have any claim to the proceeds of the Loan.

The Resilient Rural Belize Programme (RRB) is the Executing Agency for the Project, and the Ministry of Finance, Investment, Economic Transformation, Civil Aviation & E-Governance, is responsible for the overall implementation of the project. The RRB invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for Road Infrastructure – Santa Cruz Road (5.2 km). The works include, but may not be limited to, the upgrading of the Santa Cruz Road, Toledo District to a traversable standard over a length of approximately 5.2 kilometres (km), and comprises the following:

- Clearing of road reserve
- Undercutting and disposal of unsuitable material
- Excavation and cleaning of side drains
- Minor waterway training and drainage improvement works
- Supply and installation of concrete culvert units
- Construction of wingwalls, aprons and headwalls
- Supply and backfilling of culvert units with suitable material
- Supply, transportation, placement, and compaction of fill materials
- Supply, transportation, placement, and compaction of surface dressing materials (double chip seal surface layer)
- Installation of road signage and pavement markings
- Repair of girders of one (1) steel-bridge
- Construction of three (3) new reinforced concrete bridges

The bidding process is conducted according to the procedures specified in the Procurement Procedures for Projects Financed by CDB (January, 2021), as published on CDB's website and is open to all bidders from eligible countries.

Eligible countries are member countries of CDB. Bidders are advised to review the relevant eligibility criteria detailed in Section 4 and conflict of interest provisions in Section 5 of the Procurement Procedures for Projects Financed by CDB (January, 2021), as published on CDB's website.

Firms whether applying individually or in the form of a Joint Venture, shall:

(a) be legally incorporated or otherwise organised in, and have their principal place of business in an Eligible Country;
(b) be more than fifty (50) percent beneficially-owned by a citizen or citizens and/or a bona fide resident or residents of an Eligible Country, or by a body corporate or bodies meeting these requirements, as far as the ownership can be reasonably determined; and
(c) shall have no arrangement and undertake not to make any arrangement whereby the majority of the financial benefits of the contract, i.e. more than fifty (50) percent of the value of the contract, will accrue or be paid to sub-contractors or sub-consultants that are not from an Eligible Country.

Eligible bidders will be required to submit full qualification information with their bids establishing their eligibility to bid and qualification to perform the contract if the bid is accepted.

Qualification requirements include, inter alia:
(a) an average annual turnover (defined as certified payments received for works in progress or completed) within the last 5 years of Seven Million Belize Dollars (7,000,000 BZD);
(b) a demonstrable cash flow (including access to credit) of Four Hundred Fifty-Six Thousand Belize Dollars (456,000 BZD); and
(c) experience as prime contractor in the construction of at least one (1) assignment of a nature, scope and complexity comparable to the proposed project activity within the last five (5) years. (to comply with this requirement, works quoted should be at least 80 percent complete).

Bidding and qualification information are to be submitted in the English Language on the prescribed forms inserted in the Bid Documents. Submissions that do not provide the information required or that do not demonstrate the prospective supplier's ability to perform satisfactorily, will not qualify and will not be considered for further evaluation.

Requests for electronic copies of bidding documents may be made in writing to the first address below. Electronic copies of bidding documents will be provided to requesting bidders free of cost Written applications must be clearly marked: "Request for Bid Documents for Road Infrastructure – Santa Cruz Road (5.2 km)".

The electronic Bidding submission procedures are as follows: Electronic Bids shall be submitted by email, as a password protected single attachment, in pdf format, by the deadline and to the second email address stated below. The password shall be submitted in a separate email, five (5) to ten (10) minutes after the bid submission deadline and before the public opening of bids.

Hard copies of Bids must be submitted as follows: one (1) original and two (2) copies in one envelope sealed and marked as indicated in the bidding document, with the name and address of the bidder, and be clearly marked "Bid for Road Infrastructure – Santa Cruz Road (5.2 km) and in addition, one copy of the bid shall be an electronic copy saved on a flash drive also included in the sealed envelope, to the third address below. Electronic or physical bids must be delivered no later than July 2, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. (local time). Bids will be opened publicly immediately after the deadline for submission of bids, in the presence of Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the third address below. Qualification information only must be simultaneously submitted to the fourth e-mail address below.
Each bid must be accompanied by a completed, signed Bid-Securing Declaration. Late bids will be rejected.

GOB reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, and to annul the process and reject all bids, at any time prior to award of contract, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected prospective bidder(s) or any obligation to inform the affected prospective bidder(s) of the grounds for GOB action. GOB will not defray any costs incurred by any bidder in the preparation of bids.

(1) Address and information for Requesting Bidding Documents and Requesting Clarifications: Attention: Senior Procurement Officer Street Address: Hummingbird Highway, National Agriculture Show Grounds City: City of Belmopan, Cayo District Country: Belize, C.A. Electronic mail address: **lpalacio.rrb@met.gov.bz** Copied to: Eemyiah Castillo, **ecastillo.rrb@met.gov.bz**	(2) Address and information for electronic Bid Submission and Bid Opening: Electronic mail address: **procurement.rrb@met.gov.bz**
(3) Address and information for Physical Bid Submission and Bid Opening Venue: Attention: Senior Procurement Officer Resilient Rural Belize Programme Street Address: Hummingbird Highway, National Agriculture Show Grounds City: City of Belmopan, Cayo District Country: Belize, C.A.	(4) Caribbean Development Bank Tel: (+1246) 539-1600 Email: **procurement@caribank.org**

Voice of the Common Man

THE GLOBAL WATER SUMMIT 2026: WHERE WATER MEETS MONEY

By Hilly Bennett

Belize continues to shine on the global stage and was represented by Cornelio Acosta, Chairman of Belize Water Services Limited (BWSL), at the Global Water Summit (GWS) 2026 held in Madrid Spain from May 18 to May 20.

#GWS 2026 brought together 1,200 senior executives from across the water sector, including utility CEOs, infrastructure investors, technology providers, project developers, and industrial water users, to address the most pressing challenge presently - water transition. The caveat: We failed at the energy transition; how do we succeed in the water transition? The primary objective of this year's summit is to strengthen partnerships and to explore innovative solutions for the region's water sector.

Climate resilience, wastewater management, and the growing role of artificial intelligence (AI) in water service delivery, were considered priority areas in the strategic networking sessions and the bilateral meetings. Caribbean water leaders from the Bahamas, Belize, Grenada, Jamaica, and Saint Lucia made their mark at GWS 2026. They were joined by the Caribbean Water and Wastewater Association (CWWA) in the sharing of ideas, building partnerships, and exploring solutions for a stronger, more climate-resilient water services across the Caribbean.

In what could be considered a proud moment for Belize was on the opening day of the summit, Belize's Executive Chairman, Belize Water Services (BWS), Cornelio Acosta Jr., presented to the global audience, highlighting the efficiencies and successes of BWS. One of the successes is Belize being recognized as one of the leading utilities in the Caribbean with one of the region's lowest Non-Revenue Water (NWR) rates. Discussions at the summit heavily emphasized NRW.

Acosta noted that it reflects our commitment to efficiency, sustainability, and continuous improvement in water service delivery. However, the Executive Chairman noted that despite mounting climate and infrastructural challenges, BWS remains financially stable and committed to ongoing service delivery.

Joining Acosta on the opening day was Kenrick St. Louis of National Water and Wastewater Association (NAWASA), Grenada, whose focus was on attracting international investments and technological innovations to the Caribbean. Interestingly, decision-makers representing $300 billion in potential project value spoke at the Project Roundtable session.

One of the major takeaways from the GWS 2026 Summit is the need to push beyond the present 10% water reuse currently existing in many water systems. There is need for more investments through public-private partnerships (PPPs) and innovative funding models that are vital to fund resilient next-generation water infrastructure.

The Caribbean delegation's participation was supported by the European Union (EU) through the Global Gateway Investment Agenda and the Caribbean Cooperation Facility, with the coordination by the Caribbean Water and Wastewater Association (CWWA) Secretariat and support from Global Water Intelligence. Together, these partnerships continue to strengthen climate resilience and water security across the region. (CWWA post)

BELIZE Social Investment Fund

Government of Belize

CARICOM Development Fund Cycle 3
Consultancy Services for the Design and Supervision of Infrastructure Works for the CDF Cycle 3, Education Sub Projects.
Request for Expressions of Interest

The Government of Belize (GOBZ) may receive financing from the CARICOM Development Fund (CDF) towards the cost of financing the CARICOM Development Fund Cycle 3 Project and intends to apply a portion of the proceeds of this financing to eligible payments under a contract for which this invitation is issued. Payments by CDF will be made only at the request of GOBZ and upon approval byCDF and will be subject in all respects to the terms and conditions of the Financing Agreement. TheFinancing Agreement prohibits withdrawal from the financing account for the purpose of any payment to persons or entities, or for any import of goods, if such payment or import, to the knowledge of CDF, is prohibited by a decision of the United Nations Security Council taken under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations. No party other than GOBZ shall derive any rights from the Financing Agreement or have any claim to the proceeds of the Financing.

The Belize Social Investment Fund (BSIF) is the Executing Agency (EA) of this project, now wishes to procure consultancy services for the following:

1. Consultancy Services for the Design and Supervision of Infrastructure Works for the Proposed St. Francis Xavier R.C. Primary and Pre-Primary School Construction, Corozal Town, Corozal, Belize
2. Consultancy Services for the Design and Supervision of Infrastructure Works for the Proposed Improved Access to Enhanced Primary Education Services for the Children of San Antonio RC Primary and Pre-Primary School, San Antonio Village, Corozal, Belize
3. Consultancy Services for the Design and Supervision of Infrastructure Works for the Proposed Our Lady of Guadalupe RC Primary School Construction, City of Belmopan, Belize

The objective of the consultancies is to provide consulting engineering services that encompass the engineering design and construction supervision services for the construction of:

1. St. Francis Xavier Primary and Pre-Primary School, Corozal Town, Corozal District. Belize.
2. San Antonio RC Primary and Pre-Primary School, San Antonio Village, Corozal District, Belize.
3. Our Lady of Guadalupe RC School, City of Belmopan, Cayo District, Belize.

Further details and the Draft Terms of Reference can be made available upon request by contacting **Address 1 below.** The duration of the assignment is expected to be for a period of approximately thirty-six (36) nonconsecutive months.

The BSIF now invites interested eligible consulting firms to submit Expressions of Interest (EOI) for the provision of these consultancy services. Consultants shall be eligible to participate if:

(a) in the case of the body corporate, it is legally incorporated or otherwise organized in an eligible country, has its principal place of business in an eligible country and is more than 50% beneficially owned by a citizen(s) and/or bona fide resident(s) of an eligible country(ies) or by a body(ies) corporate meeting these requirements;

(b) in the case of unincorporated firms, the persons are citizens or bona fide residents of an eligible country; and

(c) in all cases, the consultant has no arrangement and undertakes not to make any arrangements, whereby any substantial part of the net profits or other tangible benefits of the contract will accrue or be paid to a person not a citizen or bona fide resident of an eligible country.

Eligible countries are member countries of CDF. Consultants are advised to review the detailed eligibility criteria detailed in Section 1.06 and conflict of interest provisions of the Procurement Procedures for Projects Financed by CDF (May 2010).

In the assessment of submissions, consideration will be given to consulting firms' technical competence, qualifications and experience in relation to providing detailed design and supervision services on education infrastructure projects, as well as local and regional experience, financial capability (liquidity ratio) and existing commitments. Key Experts will not be evaluated at the shortlisting stage.

Interested consultant teams are required to submit their Expression of Interest using the "EOI Consulting firms template" which can be made available upon request by contacting **Address 1** below.

All information must be submitted in **English.** Further information may be obtained from the address 1 below between the hours of 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Monday to Friday (Belize Time), except on Public Holidays.

The Expression of Interest must be received electronically at the address below no later than **2:00 p.m. (Belize time)** on **June 24th 2026.** The subject line of the email containing each submission shall be clearly marked **"CDF3 - Expressions of Interest – Consultancy Services for the Design and Supervision of Infrastructure Works for CDF Cycle 3, Education Sub Projects."**

Following the assessment of submissions, a short-list of not less than three (3) and not more than six (6) applicants will be provided with full terms of reference and invited to submit technical and financial proposals to undertake the assignment. GOBZ reserves the right to accept or reject late applications or to cancel the present invitation partially or in its entirety. It will not be bound to assign any reason for not short-listing any applicant and will not defray any costs incurred by any applicant in the preparation and submission of Expressions of Interest.

Addresses:

1. Head of Procurement
Belize Social Investment Fund
3rd Floor
#4253 Hummingbird Highway
Belmopan
BELIZE
Tel. (501) 822-0239; Fax. (501) 822-0279
Email: **submissions@sifbelize.org**
cc: **angeles.itzab@sifbelize.org**

REVENGE

By Hon Gilroy Usher, Port Loyola Area Representative

I

1 Revenge results in endless cycle of suffering
2 More hate, injury, lies, destruction, and killing
3 Avoid friends who seek to lead you astray

4 For betterment, heed positive advice everyday
5 Don't be a fool; follow the Golden Rule
6 Treat others as you would want them to treat you

II

1 Pursue your dreams with hard work daily
2 Say 'no' to revenge; 'yes' to embracing family
3 Seek justice in court or with mediation

4 Learn from mistakes and avoid their repetition
5 Don't be a fool; follow the Golden Rule
6 Treat others as you would want them to treat you

POTABLE WATER EXPANSION IN PORT

By Hon Gilroy Usher, Area Representative

Following up on my request a few months ago, earlier this week, Belize Water Services (BWS) began preparation to supply potable water to dozens of families in the new area of Arlington Dr. Ext. in Port Loyola with the laying of water mains on two of the longest streets that were built in the neighborhood by yours truly to make it more easily accessible.

The infrastructure work will be a huge financial relief to the residents as they will only need to pay the regular connection fees to access water from BWS.

It often cost approximately $1,500.00 for a family to receive water from the utility company on a street where it doesn't already have a water main.

Now that BWS has taken the lead in servicing the community, the residents would greatly appreciate if Belize Electricity Ltd. (BEL) would also follow-up on the need for it to provide electricity to the area with urgency.

With the subdivision of Neal's Pen Rd Ext completed including the path of the street, it is much easier for both BWS and BEL to provide necessary water and electricity in that section of Port Loyola ASAP.

HON. MICHEL CHEBAT'S OPENING ADDRESS LXV MEETING OF THE OLACDE COUNCIL OF EXPERTS WEDNESDAY, 27 TH MAY 2026, 9:00 AM GRAND RESORT AND RESIDENCES, BELIZE CITY

Good morning, it is my distinct honor and privilege to welcome you to Belize.

Allow me first to extend a very warm welcome to Mr. Andrés Rebolledo, Executive Secretary of OLACDE, Mr. Sérgio Soares Ayrimoraes, Vice Presidency the LXV Council of Experts of OLACDE, delegates.

Welcome to Belize, Mother Nature's best-kept secret, a country where the richness of our cultures is reflected in our people, our cuisine, and our enduring spirit of hospitality. Here, the gentle Caribbean breeze carries not only warmth, but also a profound sense of unity and resilience.

As we gather over the next two days to deliberate on the future of energy within our region, we are reminded of the immense responsibility entrusted to us. Energy is no longer merely a sector of the economy. It is the lifeblood of development, the foundation of productivity, and the bridge between opportunity and prosperity.

Our guiding principle must therefore remain clear: while we think globally, we must act locally. Our countries continue to pursue ambitious strategies to modernize and strengthen our energy sectors. Yet, despite our unique national realities, our challenges remain deeply interconnected. This is precisely why forums such as OLACDE remain critically important.

No single country possesses all the answers but together, through cooperation, solidarity, and shared experience, we can collectively shape a more secure and sustainable future for Latin America and the Caribbean.

Ladies and gentlemen,

It is often said that the past lays the foundation for the future, and nowhere is this more evident than in the history of OLACDE itself.

Established on the 2nd of November 1973, OLACDE emerged during one of the most turbulent periods in modern global energy history. What began with 22 founding member states has now evolved into a united family of 27 nations committed to regional collaboration and energy integration.

The global oil crisis of the 1970s, fueled by geopolitical conflict and economic instability, dramatically reshaped the international energy landscape. Energy prices surged, economies were disrupted, and nations across the world were forced to confront the harsh reality of energy insecurity.

In response, our region chose cooperation over isolation. Coordination over fragmentation. Solidarity over uncertainty.

And today, more than fifty years later, history once again echoes before us.
The same geopolitical tensions, supply chain disruptions, and external shocks continue to threaten global stability and energy affordability. Once again, the world finds itself navigating uncertainty.

My brothers and sisters, history has a way of repeating itself.

But history also teaches us something else: resilient nations are those willing to adapt, innovate, and act collectively.

If we are to successfully overcome the challenges of our time, then we must take ownership of our own energy destiny. Homegrown solutions must remain at the center of our development agenda.

Across OLACDE member states, we have witnessed a remarkable transformation of the regional energy matrix. Systems once dominated almost exclusively by hydroelectricity are now evolving into increasingly diversified portfolios incorporating solar photovoltaics, wind energy, biomass, geothermal resources, battery energy storage systems, and distributed generation technologies.

Belize is proud to be part of that transformation. We commissioned our first hydroelectric facility in 1996, and over the decades that followed, we expanded our renewable portfolio through additional hydroelectric and biomass generation facilities.

Today, Belize stands at another important turning point in its energy journey.
In the near future, Belize will launch a tender for approximately 80 megawatts of solar photovoltaic capacity as part of our national energy strategy. Simultaneously, recognizing the operational realities associated with high penetration levels of variable renewable energy, Belize will also pursue the deployment of battery energy storage systems to strengthen grid stability, resilience, and reliability.

This initiative is not simply about adding megawatts to the grid. It is about transforming the way we think about energy security.

Through regional cooperation and shared experience, we have learned that renewable energy integration must be accompanied by investments in flexibility and resilience. Battery energy storage systems will therefore play a critical role in supporting renewable integration while also providing essential grid services such as peak shaving, frequency regulation, voltage support, reactive power management, energy arbitrage, and overall system reliability.

Belize is steadily taking control of its energy future. And while our country may be small in size, we remain ambitious in vision and unwavering in commitment.

Ladies and gentlemen,
As we discuss energy security, sustainability, and affordability, we must also confront another defining challenge of our generation: climate change.

For the Caribbean and Latin America, climate change is not a distant threat. It is a lived reality.

We need only reflect on Hurricane Melissa, which made landfall in southwest Jamaica on the 28th of October 2025 as a devastating Category 5 hurricane. More than 540,000 customers lost electricity, and damages were estimated at approximately nine billion US dollars.

This tragedy serves as a powerful reminder that our energy transition must also be a resilient transition.

We must therefore remain pragmatic, vigilant, and forward-looking. We must invest not only in renewable generation, but also in the hardening of our electrical grids, decentralized and distributed energy systems, climate-resilient infrastructure, microgrids, battery storage technologies, and long-term planning frameworks that cultivate a true culture of resilience.

The future of energy in our region cannot simply be cleaner. It must also be stronger. More flexible. More inclusive. And more resilient.

In closing, allow me to express sincere appreciation to the leadership of OLACDE for more than five decades of dedicated service to the people of Latin America and the Caribbean.

To those visionary leaders who laid this foundation before us, we honor your foresight, your courage, and your enduring commitment to regional cooperation.

And to all gathered here today, let us move forward together, united in purpose, ambitious in vision, and unwavering in our commitment to building a more secure, sustainable, resilient, and prosperous energy future for our peoples.

On behalf of the Government and people of Belize, I once again warmly welcome you to the Sixty-Fifth Council of Experts and wish you productive deliberations and meaningful engagement over the next two days.

I thank you!

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Key Measures Helping Belizean Families

- Millions in Subsidies to Bus Owners
- Fuel Tax Cuts to Cushion Price Hikes

- Minimum Wage Increased from $5 to $6
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- Increased Subsidies for University of Belize
- Financial Aid for Secondary and Tertiary Students
- Free Education for 15,000 Students in 27 Schools
- Tuition, Books, Devices, Uniforms, Meals and Transportation
- Raised Income Tax Threshold
- Healthy Start Meals for 20,000 Students Daily
- No GST Back-to-School Weekends
- No GST Christmas Weekends

- Enforcement of Price Gouging Laws
- Expanded List of Controlled Goods
- Duty-Free Feminine Hygiene Products
- Savings Passed On for Butane

- Public Hospitals Free of Fees
- National Health Insurance Access Across Belize
- People's Boledo Supports Healthcare, Sports and Charities

- Housing Access for Single Parents
- Land for First-Time Owners
- Thousands of Land Issues Regularized
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- Digital Government Services Reduce Travel Costs
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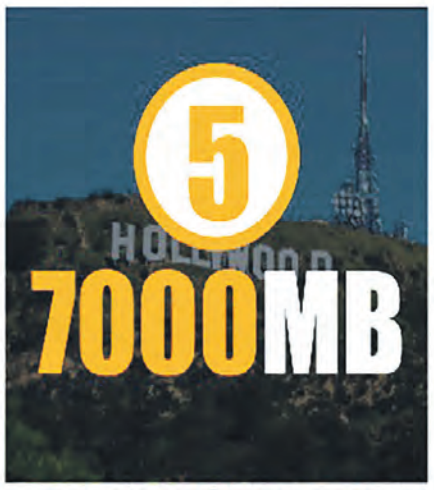

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